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978-0-521-87126-6 - 'Twixt Land and Sea: Tales - A Smile of Fortune the Secret  
Sharer Freya of the Seven Isles

Joseph Conrad

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THE  
CAMBRIDGE EDITION OF  
THE WORKS OF  
JOSEPH CONRAD

Cambridge University Press

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JOSEPH CONRAD  
  
'TWIXT LAND AND SEA  
  
TALES

A SMILE OF FORTUNE  
THE SECRET SHARER  
FREYA OF THE SEVEN ISLES

EDITED BY

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Joseph Conrad

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

In Memoriam

BRUCE HARKNESS

1923–2004

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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978-0-521-87126-6 - 'Twixt Land and Sea: Tales - A Smile of Fortune the Secret Sharer Freya of the Seven Isles

Joseph Conrad

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CONTENTS

List of Illustrations	<i>page</i> xiii
Preface	xv
Acknowledgements	xvii
Chronology	xix
Abbreviations	xxviii
Introduction	xxxii
'TWTIXT LAND AND SEA: TALES	1
AUTHOR'S NOTE	5
A SMILE OF FORTUNE	11
THE SECRET SHARER	79
FREYA OF THE SEVEN ISLES	121
The Texts: An Essay	203
The Secret Sharer	205
A Smile of Fortune	225
Freya of the Seven Isles	249
Book Editions	280
Copy-texts	288
Emendation	293
The 'Author's Note'	304
The Cambridge Texts	309
Apparatus	311
Emendation and Variation	311
Emendations of Accidentals	411
End-of-Line Word-Division	428
Appendices	429
A Provenance of the Early Documents	429
B The Titles of the Tales	438
C The London Magazine	442



Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87126-6 - 'Twixt Land and Sea: Tales - A Smile of Fortune the Secret  
Sharer Freya of the Seven Isles

Joseph Conrad

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xii

## CONTENTS

D	A Smile of Fortune: Pagination of the First Typescript Fragment	445
E	A Smile of Fortune: Correspondence with the <i>London Magazine</i>	446
F	A Smile of Fortune: The Serial Version of the Prologue and Ending	449
G	Freya of the Seven Isles: The Garnett Controversy	457
H	Freya of the Seven Isles: Marks in Pencil on the First Typescript	459
I	The Epigraph and the Dedication	462
	Notes	465

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87126-6 - 'Twixt Land and Sea: Tales - A Smile of Fortune the Secret Sharer Freya of the Seven Isles

Joseph Conrad

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## ILLUSTRATIONS

## Figures

- |    |   |                 |
|----|---|-----------------|
| 1  | Manuscript of 'The Secret Sharer', page 1. Courtesy of the Berg Collection, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations.                           | <i>page</i> 190 |
| 2  | Manuscript of 'A Smile of Fortune', page 1. Courtesy of the Berg Collection, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations.                          | 191             |
| 3  | First typescript of 'A Smile of Fortune' (Beinecke Library Fragment), page 2. Courtesy of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.               | 192             |
| 4  | Second typescript of 'A Smile of Fortune' (Berg Collection), page 1. Courtesy of the Berg Collection, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations. | 193             |
| 5  | Plate 1 for <i>Harper's</i> 'The Secret-Sharer'. Courtesy of Libraries and Media Services, Kent State University.   | 194             |
| 6  | Plate 2 for <i>Harper's</i> 'The Secret-Sharer'. Courtesy of Libraries and Media Services, Kent State University.   | 195             |
| 7  | Plate 3 for <i>Harper's</i> 'The Secret-Sharer'. Courtesy of Libraries and Media Services, Kent State University.   | 196             |
| 8  | Plate 4 for <i>Harper's</i> 'The Secret-Sharer'. Courtesy of Libraries and Media Services, Kent State University.   | 197             |
| 9  | Section title-page of <i>London Magazine's</i> 'Freya of the Seven Isles'. Courtesy of the Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.                   | 198             |
| 10 | Illustration for <i>London Magazine's</i> 'Freya of the Seven Isles'. Courtesy of the Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.                        | 199             |
| 11 | Section title-page of <i>Metropolitan Magazine's</i> 'Freya of the Seven Isles'. Courtesy of the Free Library of Philadelphia.  | 200             |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87126-6 - *'Twixt Land and Sea: Tales - A Smile of Fortune the Secret Sharer Freya of the Seven Isles*

Joseph Conrad

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xiv

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- |    |   |     |
|----|---|-----|
| 12 | Illustration for <i>Metropolitan Magazine's</i> 'Freya of the Seven Isles'. Courtesy of the Free Library of Philadelphia.                   | 201 |
| 13 | Frontispiece of <i>'Twixt Land and Sea</i> , Dent, 1918. Private collection.  | 202 |
| 14 | Genealogy of 'The Secret Sharer'.   | 223 |
| 15 | Genealogy of 'A Smile of Fortune'.  | 247 |
| 16 | Genealogy of 'Freya of the Seven Isles'.  | 275 |
| 17 | Conrad's <i>Otago</i> : a reconstruction. Courtesy of <i>Nautical Research Journal</i> .  | 530 |
| 18 | Conrad's sketch of the officers' quarters, 'The Secret Sharer'. Courtesy of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. | 531 |
| 19 | Conrad's sketch of the Captain's cabin, 'The Secret Sharer'. Courtesy of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.    | 532 |
| 20 | Plan of the officers' quarters, 'The Secret Sharer': a reconstruction. Courtesy of the Center for Conrad Studies, Kent State University.    | 533 |
| 21 | The ship's manœuvre, 'The Secret Sharer': a reconstruction. Courtesy of the Center for Conrad Studies, Kent State University.               | 534 |
| 22 | Conrad's two sketches of Nelson's bungalow, 'Freya of the Seven Isles'. Courtesy of the Free Library of Philadelphia.                       | 535 |

**Maps**

- |   |                             |     |
|---|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1 | The Eastern Seas.           | 536 |
| 2 | Mauritius, with Port Louis. | 537 |
| 3 | The Bight of Bangkok.       | 538 |
| 4 | The South China Sea.        | 539 |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87126-6 - 'Twixt Land and Sea: Tales - A Smile of Fortune the Secret Sharer Freya of the Seven Isles

Joseph Conrad

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## PREFACE

JOSEPH CONRAD'S place in twentieth-century literature is now firmly established. His novels, stories, and other writings have become integral to modern thought and culture. Yet the need for an accurate and authoritative edition of these works remains. Owing to successive rounds of authorial revision, transmissional errors, and deliberate editorial intervention, Conrad's texts exist in various unsatisfactory and sometimes confused forms. In his last years he attempted to have his works published in a uniform edition that would fix and preserve them for posterity. But though trusted by scholars, students, and general readers alike, the received texts in the British and American editions published since 1921 have proved to be at least as defective as their predecessors. The Cambridge Edition, grounded in thorough research on the original documents, is designed to reverse this trend by presenting Conrad's novels, stories, and other prose in texts that are as trustworthy as modern scholarship can make them.

The present volume contains critical texts of 'The Secret Sharer', based on Conrad's manuscript, and of 'A Smile of Fortune' and 'Freya of the Seven Isles', based on his revised typescripts, which restore passages excised in the early magazines and incorporate revisions drawn from these and other authoritative documents, as well as editorial emendations. The Cambridge text of the 'Author's Note' is based on the revised typescript. The survival of these manuscripts and typescripts has made possible the recovery of numerous and often significant words, phrases, sentences, and even paragraphs lost to his many readers since Conrad's day and finally published in this volume for the first time.

The 'Introduction' included in this volume provides a literary history of the work focused on its genesis, development, and reception in the twentieth century and describing its place in Conrad's life and art. The essay on 'The Texts' traces its textual history, examining the sources of the texts and explaining the policies followed in editing them. The apparatus records basic textual evidence, documenting the discussion of genealogy and authority in 'The Texts' as well as other editorial decisions. The various appendices include a version of the first tale rejected for this edition and further information on matters

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87126-6 - 'Twiſt Land and Sea: Tales - A Smile of Fortune the Secret Sharer Freya of the Seven Isles

Joseph Conrad

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

discussed in the 'Introduction' and 'The Texts'. The 'Notes' comment on specific readings that require glosses or involve particular textual problems. Two sets of illustrations either supplement the descriptions of documents given in the editorial matter (pp. 190–202) or help clarify the references to places made there or found in the texts themselves (pp. 530–39). Although they may interest the great variety of readers, the 'Introduction' and 'Notes' are written primarily for an audience of non-specialists, whereas the textual essay, apparatus, and appendices are intended for the scholar and specialist.

This volume follows certain policies and conventions observed throughout the Cambridge Edition. The pages of the text contain line numbers in their margins to facilitate reference to the 'Notes' and other editorial matter. References to Conrad's other works cite volumes of the Cambridge Edition already published, or else the Doubleday collected edition in its Sun-Dial printing (1921) and in the Dent printings (1923 and subsequently). Superior letters (e.g., 'M<sup>r</sup>') in the original documents have been lowered (i.e., to 'Mr'). The beginnings of paragraphs are represented by standard modern indentation regardless of the various conventions of the documents, and Conrad's '–' is reduced to simple inverted commas. Dashes of variable lengths are normally printed as one-em dashes. Other typographical elements in the texts and titles of the original documents (e.g., display capitals, chapter heads, running titles) have been standardized.

The texts and apparatus in this volume were prepared by computer. Those interested in data and documentation not published here should contact the Chief Executive Editor.

In addition to those named in the Acknowledgements, the editors wish to thank the Trustees and beneficiaries of the Estate of Joseph Conrad and Doubleday and Company and J. M. Dent and Company for permission to publish these new but old texts of Conrad's works. The support of the institutions and individuals listed on p. ix has been essential to the success of the series and is gratefully acknowledged.

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978-0-521-87126-6 - 'Twixt Land and Sea: Tales - A Smile of Fortune the Secret  
Sharer Freya of the Seven Isles

Joseph Conrad

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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For their support of the Edition we also wish to express gratitude to present and former administrators of Kent State University, including (in alphabetical order) Rudolph O. Buttler, Carol A. Cartwright, Ronald J. Corthell, Joseph H. Danks, Susanna G. Fein, Suzanne B. Fitzgerald, Paul L. Gaston, Charlee Heimlich, Myron S. Henry, E. Thomas Jones, Dean H. Keller, Gordon W. Keller, Michael Schwartz, F. S. Schwarzbach, Carol M. Toncar, Darrell R. Turnidge, Eugene P. Wenninger, and John L. West. Gratitude for special support goes to the staffs of Kent State University's Libraries and Media Services, and Nancy Birk, Cara L. Gilgenbach, Don L. Tolliver, Jeanne M. Somers, and Mark W. Weber, and particularly to the Systems staff, including Thomas L. Hedington, Thomas E. Klingler, Todd M. Ryan, and Richard A. Wiggins.

As always it is a pleasure to acknowledge the aid of colleagues associated with the Cambridge Edition as well as other scholars who have given advice or answered queries: Stephen Donovan on the *London Magazine*, Jeremy Hawthorn on circuses, J. H. Stape for various counsel on the explanatory notes, Susan Jones and Ernest W. Sullivan, II, for checking manuscripts and typescripts at libraries, and Andrea White on 'A Smile of Fortune'. We wish especially to thank Laurence Davies, Owen Knowles, and J. H. Stape, the editors of Cambridge University

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978-0-521-87126-6 - 'Twixt Land and Sea: Tales - A Smile of Fortune the Secret  
Sharer Freya of the Seven Isles

Joseph Conrad

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

xviii

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Press's *Letters* for 1916–21, for their cooperation and permission to consult texts of the letters prior to publication.

The explanatory notes to 'Freya of the Seven Isles' have benefited immensely from information given by the late Hans van Marle in a 1994 letter to the late Bruce Harkness. We wish to acknowledge the generosity of both in sharing this information as well as the extraordinary research of the former. The latter began this volume early in his tenure as one of the General Editors of the series. His work on one of its stories during much of his professional career is evidenced at various points; less evident are his contributions to the foundations of the volume, including examination of the early documents and numerous other details. In a unique exception to the policies of the series, the editors express on a separate page their debt to a scholar, a gentleman, and our quiet collaborator.

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Joseph Conrad

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CHRONOLOGY

JOSEPH CONRAD'S life may be seen as having several distinct stages: in Poland and in Russian exile before his father's death (1857–69); in Poland and the south of France under the care of his maternal uncle (1870–78); in the British merchant marine, mainly as junior officer sailing in the Far East (1878–90); after a transitional period (early 1890s), as writer of critical esteem (1895–1914); as acclaimed writer, though perhaps with his greatest work achieved (1914–24). After 1895 the history of his life is essentially the history of his works. Publication dates given below are those of the London editions, unless otherwise specified.

1857 December 3	Józef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski (Nałęcz coat-of-arms) born in Berdyczów in the Ukraine to Apollo and Ewelina (or Ewa), née Bobrowska, Korzeniowski
1862 May	Korzeniowski, his wife, and son forced into exile in Russia
1865 April	Ewa Korzeniowska dies
1867	Conrad visits Odessa with his uncle Tadeusz Bobrowski, perhaps his first view of the sea
1868	Korzeniowski permitted to leave Russia
1869 February	Korzeniowski and Conrad move to Cracow
May	Korzeniowski dies
1870	Conrad, under care of Bobrowski, begins study with tutor, Adam Pulman
1873 May	Visits Switzerland and northern Italy
1874 October	Takes position in Marseilles with Delestang et Fils, wholesalers and shippers
1875	Apprentice in <i>Mont-Blanc</i>
1876–7	In <i>Saint-Antoine</i>
1878 February	Attempts suicide
or March	
April	Leaves Marseilles in British steamer <i>Mavis</i>



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Sharer Freya of the Seven Isles

Joseph Conrad

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xx

## CHRONOLOGY

1878 June	Lands at Lowestoft, Suffolk; first time in England
July–September	Sails as ordinary seaman in <i>Skimmer of the Sea</i>
1878–80	In <i>Duke of Sutherland</i> (voyage to Sydney), <i>Europa</i>
1880	Meets G. F. W. Hope, Adolf Krieger
June	Passes examination for second mate
1880–81	Third mate in <i>Loch Etive</i> (voyage to Sydney)
1880 August	<i>Cutty Sark</i> incident
1881–4	Second mate in <i>Palestine, Riversdale, Narcissus</i> (eastern seas)
1881	<i>Costa Rica</i> affair
1884 December	Passes examination for first mate
1885–6	Second mate in <i>Tilkhurst</i>
1886	Submits perhaps his first story, 'The Black Mate', to <i>Tit-Bits</i> competition
August	Becomes a British subject
November	Successfully passes examination for master and receives 'Certificate of Competency'
1886–7	Second mate in <i>Falconhurst</i>
1887–8	First mate in <i>Highland Forest</i> , in <i>Vidar</i> (Malayan waters)
1888–9	Captain of barque <i>Otago</i> : Bangkok to Singapore, to Sydney, to Melbourne, to Sydney, to Port Louis (Mauritius), to Melbourne and Australian ports
1888	Proposes marriage to Eugénie Renouf
1889 autumn	Begins <i>Almayer's Folly</i> in London
1890 February–April	In Poland for first time since 1874
May–December	To Congo as second-in-command, then temporarily as captain, of <i>Roi des Belges</i>
1891	Manages warehouse of Barr, Moering, London
1891–3	First mate in <i>Torrens</i>
1893	Meets John Galsworthy, Edward L. Sanderson

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Joseph Conrad

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

	CHRONOLOGY	xxi
1893 autumn	Visits Bobrowski	
November	Signs on as second mate in <i>Adowa</i> , which never makes voyage	
1894 January	Ends career as seaman	
February	Bobrowski dies	
1895 April	Meets Edward Garnett, Jessie George	
1896 March	<i>Almayer's Folly</i>	
September	<i>An Outcast of the Islands</i> . Marries Jessie George	
1897	Settles in Stanford-le-Hope, Essex, after spending six months in Brittany	
December	Begins friendship with R. B. Cunninghame Graham; meets Henry James, Stephen Crane	
1898	<i>The Nigger of the 'Narcissus'</i>	
January	Meets Ford Madox (Hueffer) Ford, H. G. Wells	
April	Alfred Borys Leo Conrad born	
October	<i>Tales of Unrest</i>	
1900	Moves house to Pent Farm, Postling, Nr Hythe, Kent, sub-let from Ford	
October	Begins association with J. B. Pinker	
1901 June	<i>Lord Jim</i>	
1902 November	<i>The Inheritors</i> (with Ford)	
1903 April	<i>Youth: A Narrative and Two Other Stories</i>	
October	<i>Typhoon and Other Stories</i>	
1904 October	<i>Romance</i> (with Ford)	
1905 June	<i>Nostramo</i>	
1906	<i>One Day More</i> staged in London	
August	Meets Arthur Marwood	
October	John Alexander Conrad born	
1907 September	<i>The Mirror of the Sea</i>	
December	<i>The Secret Agent</i> . Moves house to Someries, Luton, Bedfordshire	
1908	Begins 'Razumov' (later <i>Under Western Eyes</i> )	
August	Continuing 'Razumov'	
September–December	<i>A Set of Six</i>	
	Writes first four instalments of 'Some Reminiscences' (later <i>A Personal Record</i> )	

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978-0-521-87126-6 - 'Twixt Land and Sea: Tales - A Smile of Fortune the Secret Sharer Freya of the Seven Isles

Joseph Conrad

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xxii

## CHRONOLOGY

1908 November 25	First instalment of 'Some Reminiscences' in December issue of Ford's <i>English Review</i>
1909 February	Moves house to Aldington, Kent
February–May	Writes three further instalments of 'Some Reminiscences'
late May	Final instalment of 'Some Reminiscences' in June issue of <i>English Review</i>
June 23	Suspends 'Some Reminiscences', marking decisive breach with Ford, though thinking of continuing them
June 29	Writes to Bliss Carman about 'doing something for the Gentleman's Journal – probably an auto-biographical sea-paper'
July 18	Captain C. M. Marris writes to Conrad, suggesting a meeting
August 7–ca. 24	Conrad and family visit Gibbon; Conrad reads Marris's letter to him
September 13	Marris visits Aldington
September 14	Conrad lunches with Galsworthy in London as Marris departs Southampton
September 18	'Silence of the Sea' appears in <i>Daily Mail</i> ; has resumed writing 'Razumov'
ca. October 11	Writes to Pinker about his 'contribution to the Daily Mail', about Marris's visit, and about writing more stories of the 'Malay Seas', while sending 30 pages of 'Razumov'
October 31	Writes to <i>Harper's</i> recapitulating his 21 July letter about publishing <i>A Personal Record</i> in serial and book form
November	Reads proofs of French translation of <i>The Nigger of the 'Narcissus'</i>
November 10	Reports to Galsworthy the collapse of housemaid Nellie Lyons
December	<i>Le Temps</i> in Paris promises French serialization and book of <i>The Secret Agent</i>
December 5	Breaks off 'Razumov' to begin 'The Secret Sharer'

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Joseph Conrad

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CHRONOLOGY

xxiii

1909 December 10	Sends first 64 or 65 pages of untitled manuscript of 'The Secret Sharer' to Pinker and informs Galsworthy of story
December 15	Sends second batch of manuscript pages of untitled tale to Pinker with suggested title and sub-title of ' <i>The Second Self. An episode from the Sea</i> '; revises typescript
December 18	Receives Pinker's disturbing letter regarding 'Razumov'
December 18 or 19	Returns revised typescript of tale to Pinker with further suggested titles, including ' <i>The Secret Sharer</i> '
December 22 or 29	Replies to Pinker about placing 'The Secret Sharer' in an American magazine, either <i>McClure's</i> or <i>Harper's</i>
December 28	Has resumed 'Razumov'
1910	Translation of <i>The Nigger of the 'Narcissus'</i> published in <i>Mercure de France</i>
January 6	Writes to Pinker about collection of stories, including 'The Secret Sharer', saying he is writing to Henry Mills Alden (editor of <i>Harper's</i> ) regarding 'The Secret Sharer'
January 6–26	Writes remaining chapters of <i>Under Western Eyes</i>
January 8	<i>Harper's</i> accepts 'The Secret Sharer'
January 12	Writes to Pinker saying he wrote to Alden about placing 'The Secret Sharer'
January 27	Having 'finished' <i>Under Western Eyes</i> , visits Pinker in London
January 30	Suffers physical and nervous collapse
March 3	Mentions trying to revise <i>Under Western Eyes</i> in his first surviving letter since collapse
April	Revises typescript of <i>Under Western Eyes</i> , with visits from Gibbon and Garnett, financial support from Galsworthy
May 11	Finishes revising <i>Under Western Eyes</i>
May 18	Begins 'comical' short story with 'a nautical setting . . . Title: A Smile of Fortune'

Cambridge University Press

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Joseph Conrad

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xxiv

## CHRONOLOGY

1910 May 23	Writes first surviving letter to Pinker since breakdown, about vacating Aldington house by 24 June
May late	Hugh Clifford turns up from Ceylon
June 26	Settling into Capel House, Orlestone, Kent, receives letter from <i>Daily Mail</i> proposing weekly book reviews
July 13	Has written '70 pp of the short story' ('A Smile of Fortune') and two reviews
August 1	First instalment of 'The Secret-Sharer' in <i>Harper's</i>
August early	Sends Pinker pages '1 to 39' of 'A Smile of Fortune' and announces he has severed contract with <i>Daily Mail</i> , having written only four reviews
August 30	Finishes writing and revising 'A Smile of Fortune'
September 1	Second and last instalment of 'The Secret Sharer' in <i>Harper's</i>
September 3	Acknowledges £40 cheque from Pinker for 'A Smile of Fortune' and announces beginning of 'Prince Roman'
September 22	Borysto <i>Worcester</i> at Greenhithe
September 24	Completes manuscript of 'Prince Roman'
October	Begins revising <i>Under Western Eyes</i> in proof for serialization and (later) for book publication
October 27	Has begun but abandoned 'The Partner'
November 17	Replies to proposal from <i>London Magazine</i> to accept shortened version of 'A Smile of Fortune'
November 22	Resumes 'The Partner'
November 25	Revised, serial version of 'A Smile of Fortune' returned to Pinker
November 30	Acknowledges receipt of cheque from Pinker and mentions holding 'the cancelled papers of the story for eventual re-insertion in book form'
December	Serialization of <i>Under Western Eyes</i> begins in <i>English Review</i> and <i>North American Review</i>

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87126-6 - 'Twixt Land and Sea: Tales - A Smile of Fortune the Secret Sharer Freya of the Seven Isles

Joseph Conrad

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CHRONOLOGY

xxv

1910 December 26	Has begun 'Freya of the Seven Isles'
1911 February 25	'A Smile of Fortune' in <i>London Magazine</i>
February 28	Finishes 'Freya of the Seven Isles'
March	Revises 'The Partner' and perhaps 'Prince Roman' for serialization, defers <i>Chance</i>
March 2	Acknowledges receipt of cheque for £60 from Pinker for 'Freya of the Seven Isles'
March 28	Asks Warrington Dawson to have Mrs Demachy return the 'MS' of <i>Freya</i> if she still has it in her possession
April 29	Resumes <i>Chance</i>
August–September	Writes 'A Familiar Preface' for book form of <i>Some Reminiscences (A Personal Record)</i>
August 24	Sends John Quinn two mss: <i>An Outcast of the Islands</i> and 'Freya of the Seven Isles'
October 5	<i>Under Western Eyes</i> in England (19 October in America)
November 1	'The Partner' in <i>Harper's</i>
November 21	<i>Blackwood's</i> refuses 'Freya of the Seven Isles'
December 8	Has learned Pinker has placed 'Freya of the Seven Isles' with an American magazine
1912 January 21	Serialization of <i>Chance</i> begins in <i>New York Herald</i>
ca. January 22	<i>Some Reminiscences</i> in England, as <i>A Personal Record</i> in America (ca. 3 January)
January 28	Sends Quinn the manuscripts of 'The Secret Sharer', 'The Partner', 'Il Conde'
February	Resumes accustomed working methods, ending two-year breach with Pinker
March 25	Finishes <i>Chance</i>
April	'Freya of the Seven Isles' in New York's <i>Metropolitan Magazine</i> ; rewrites ending of <i>Chance</i>
April 18	Knows <i>English Review</i> has rejected <i>Chance</i>
April 22	Has begun story called 'Dollars' ( <i>Victory</i> ) and suggests that Pinker offer <i>English Review</i> an article on the <i>Titanic</i>

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87126-6 - 'Twixt Land and Sea: Tales - A Smile of Fortune the Secret Sharer Freya of the Seven Isles

Joseph Conrad

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xxvi

## CHRONOLOGY

1912 April 24–25	Writes 'Some Reflexions', which appears in May number of <i>English Review</i>
May 10	Requests of Davray the 'typescript' of 'Freya of the Seven Isles'
May 19	Returns to Pinker 'corrected proof' of 'Freya of the Seven Isles' for <i>London Magazine</i>
ca. June 6	Moots book titles "'Twixt Land and Water' and 'Tales of Hearsay' to Pinker
June 18	Finishes 'Certain Aspects', probably in two days, for July number of <i>English Review</i>
June 28	Tells Galsworthy that Dent's will publish book edition of his stories on 'best terms' he has ever had
July	'Freya of the Seven Isles' in <i>London Magazine</i>
July 6	Sends Pinker revised printer's copy for Dent's edition and requests proofs
July 23	Has settled title of book with Dent
July 29	Sends Quinn sheet of Symons's epigraph, returned from Dent's printer
September 17	Returns proofs of Dent's edition
October 10	British Museum depository copy of Dent's edition of <i>'Twixt Land and Sea</i> received
October 14	Dent's edition of <i>'Twixt Land and Sea</i>
November	Second printing of Dent's edition
November 28	<i>'Twixt Land and Sea</i> has had 'a very good reception'
December 3	Doran's edition of <i>'Twixt Land and Sea</i> in America
December 24	Demurs at Edith Wharton's idea of translating 'The Secret Sharer' into French
1913 September	<i>Chance</i> , with 'main' publication date of January 1914
1914 July–November	Visits Poland with family; delayed by outbreak of First World War; returns via Austria and Italy
1915 February	<i>Within the Tides</i>
September	<i>Victory</i>

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87126-6 - *'Twixt Land and Sea: Tales - A Smile of Fortune the Secret Sharer Freya of the Seven Isles*

Joseph Conrad

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CHRONOLOGY

xxvii

1917 March	<i>The Shadow-Line</i>
1919 March April	Moves house to Spring Grove, Wye, Kent Writes 'Author's Note' for <i>'Twixt Land and Sea</i>
August	<i>The Arrow of Gold</i>
October	Moves house to Oswalds, Bishopsbourne, Near Canterbury, Kent
1920 June	<i>The Rescue</i>
1921	Collected editions begin publication in England (Heinemann) and America (Doubleday)
February	<i>Notes on Life and Letters</i>
1922 November	<i>The Secret Agent</i> staged in London
1923 May–June December	Visits America, guest of F. N. Doubleday <i>The Rover</i>
1924 May	Declines knighthood
August 3	Dies at Oswalds (Roman Catholic burial, Canterbury)
September	<i>The Nature of a Crime</i> (with Ford)
October	<i>The Shorter Tales</i>
1925 January	<i>Tales of Hearsay</i>
September	<i>Suspense</i>
1926 March	<i>Last Essays</i>
1928 June	<i>The Sisters</i>



Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87126-6 - 'Twixt Land and Sea: Tales - A Smile of Fortune the Secret  
Sharer Freya of the Seven Isles

Joseph Conrad

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87126-6 - 'Twixt Land and Sea: Tales - A Smile of Fortune the Secret Sharer Freya of the Seven Isles

Joseph Conrad

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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xxix

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Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87126-6 - Twixt Land and Sea: Tales - A Smile of Fortune the Secret  
Sharer Freya of the Seven Isles

Joseph Conrad

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xxx

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W. van Hoeve, 1959; Chicago: Quadrangle Books,  
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- Wallace Alfred Russel Wallace, *The Malay Archipelago*.  
Macmillan, 1890–

**Locations of Unpublished Documents**

- Berg Berg Collection, The New York Public Library, Astor,  
Lenox and Tilden Foundations
- BL British Library
- HRHRC Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center,  
University of Texas at Austin
- NYPL Rare Books and Manuscripts Division, The New York  
Public Library
- Philadelphia Free Library of Philadelphia
- Yale Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale  
University

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87126-6 - *Twixt Land and Sea: Tales - A Smile of Fortune the Secret Sharer Freya of the Seven Isles*

Joseph Conrad

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## INTRODUCTION

THE THREE NOVELLAS that Conrad composed between December 1909 and February 1911, and that were published in October 1912 under the title *Twixt Land and Sea: Tales*, followed (with a slight overlap) the creation of three of his greatest novels, *Nostromo* (1903–4), *The Secret Agent* (1906–7), and *Under Western Eyes* (1907–10). What the three tales may have owed to these mighty predecessors has not yet been determined, perhaps because the debt is indirect; but what is beyond doubt is that had Conrad, desperate as he was to bring *Under Western Eyes* to a conclusion, not received an unexpected visit, *Twixt Land and Sea* would not have been written. Captain C. M. Marris, a merchant sea-captain from Penang, Indonesia, who had come to England for medical treatment, called on Conrad in Aldington, Kent, on Monday, 13 September 1909, the day before his return to the East, and informed him that his earlier sea narratives evoking the old trading life in the Malay Archipelago had become the favourite reading of the surviving merchant mariners out there, that they had identified the figure behind the pseudonym ‘Conrad’ as the Captain Korzeniowski they knew, and that they were eager for more such stories from him.<sup>1</sup>

The conditions of Conrad’s current life in England, where the novels which are now read in every part of the world were respected only by fellow specialists, and where he and his family had been reduced to living in four tiny rooms above a butcher’s shop, had begun to demoralize him. His friendship with Ford Madox (Hueffer) Ford, who had supported his work since 1898, had collapsed at the end of June. His ‘gout’ – a condition in him teeming with stress symptoms – had become chronic.<sup>2</sup> He was struggling to complete the disastrously overdue ‘Razumov’ (the working title of *Under Western Eyes*) – a task which was forcing him to confront his deepest insecurities as an orphaned

<sup>1</sup> Born in New Zealand, Carlos Murrell Marris (1875–1910) had traded in the Malay Archipelago, married a Malay ‘princess’, and settled in Penang in the Straits Settlements. His letters to Conrad on 18 July 1909, 6 September 1909, and 11 January 1910, which he signed ‘Carlos. M. Marris’ or ‘C. M. Marris’, together with three of Conrad’s about his visit, provide the evidence we have about the substance of their conversation. See *Portrait in Letters*, pp. xxvi, 66–70, 71–2, and *Letters*, iv, 273, 277–8, 469–70.

<sup>2</sup> On this question and Conrad’s complicated illnesses, see Martin Bock, *Joseph Conrad and Psychological Medicine* (2002), esp. pp. 39–40, 59–60.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87126-6 - 'Twixt Land and Sea: Tales - A Smile of Fortune the Secret Sharer Freya of the Seven Isles

Joseph Conrad

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xxxii

## INTRODUCTION

and *émigré* Pole. Finally, he owed his agent, James B. Pinker, a staggering £2,566 (or roughly seven times the annual earnings in the professions),<sup>1</sup> which only the product of his pen could repay. Under such conditions Marris's visit came upon him like an act of grace. As he heard what Marris had to tell him, his sense of paralysis apparently began to lift, and it eventually yielded to a run of creative energy which, by the end of January 1910, had enabled him not only to generate the 46,000 words required to complete a great novel, but also to produce, in a faultless two weeks, the 16,400 words of 'The Secret Sharer' – a story which converted into a comic key the novel's tragic narrative, and which also opened the door to two further tales inspired by memories of his final year's maritime service in eastern waters.

## SOURCES

CAPTAIN MARRIS'S visit, then, proved to be massively productive. But does that make it a 'source' of Conrad's three tales? The answer to that question, which is by no means straightforward, requires us to recognize a distinction between the general and the particular uses of this term. When, for example, John Locke invokes the 'Source of Ideas' that 'every Man has wholly in himself',<sup>2</sup> he invites us to seek the origins of a text in the creative energy that brings it into existence, and for which the quality of that text is the sole evidence. To enquire, however, into the sources of a piece of writing would seem to ask us to relate it less to the author than to the world available to him. But this distinction is misleading, for the production of source – that is to say, the absorption of a piece of the world into a text – presupposes creative power. An event in the world is not a source until it has ceased to be merely itself, until it has been adapted to the requirements of its new environment.

<sup>1</sup> That is, by one measure, of the average lawyer, doctor, and dentist; it represented approximately eighteen years' earnings for a qualified teacher and twenty-seven for a male clerk at 1913 money levels. At the end of the century, by other measures, Conrad's debt would have amounted to about £900,000 as compared to per-capita gross domestic product, or £160,000 in purchasing power (for goods and services). See Guy Routh, *Occupation and Pay in Great Britain 1906–60* (1965), pp. 63–4, 69, 104, and Lawrence H. Officer, 'What Is Its Relative Value in UK Pounds?', *Economic History Services* ([www.EH.net](http://www.EH.net), 2004). See also 'Purchasing Power of the British Pound 1600–2000', compiled by the Librarian of the House of Commons, as well as *The Consumers' Price Index* (brought out by the Treasury between 1900 and 1938) and *The Economist* for the period 1938 to 2003, which together indicate that during the period 1900–2003 the purchasing power of the pound sterling fell to 1.3 pence (i.e., by a factor of 75).

<sup>2</sup> *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, ed. Peter H. Nidditch (1975), II.i.§4 (p. 105).

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87126-6 - 'Twixt Land and Sea: Tales - A Smile of Fortune the Secret Sharer Freya of the Seven Isles

Joseph Conrad

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## INTRODUCTION

xxxiii

The criterion for the identification of a source, therefore, remains its creative function, whether that source originates as an episode in another text, or as a person in life, or as an event in time. In this perspective, the Marris who called on Conrad in September 1909, indispensable as his visit may have been in restoring Conrad's faith in himself, cannot be regarded as a source unless he himself acquires some textual presence, as he arguably does in 'Freya of the Seven Isles'. Until then (like Edward Garnett and Ford Madox Ford, who for years fostered Conrad's writing without featuring in it), he should be understood in relation to Conrad's talent – that 'Source of Ideas that every Man has wholly in himself' – rather than to those 'sources' by means of which the outside world enters narrative fiction.

**The Secret Sharer**

ONE OF the most commanding of Conrad's shorter works, 'The Secret Sharer' owes much of its power to the interaction of two sources. The first is autobiographical, and draws on his experience of his first command, which he assumed in Bangkok on 24 January 1888. The second is historical, and is centred on the killing of a seaman by the first mate of the legendary clipper, *Cutty Sark*, in early August 1880. The novella is also significantly indebted to Conrad's extraordinary visual memory, the major effects of which are indicated in the 'Notes' to this edition.

The circumstances connected with Conrad's first and only appointment to a command deserve to be recalled, for they form the autobiographical context of 'The Secret Sharer'. On 19 January 1888,<sup>1</sup> the Singapore Harbour Office offered him charge of the *Otago*, a barque immobilized in Bangkok (today also called Krung Thep) by the death at sea of her captain. Conrad left at once by steamer, assuming his post four days later. He found the *Otago* to be a small but elegant commercial sailing ship of 367 tons gross, measuring 147 × 26 × 14 feet, and equipped with the standard barque rigging (sails set square on the fore and main masts, and fore-and-aft on the mizzen mast). Apart from the captain, her complement consisted of two officers (the first mate, a German called Charles Born, and the second mate, probably an Englishman, named Jackson), together with six ordinary sailors

<sup>1</sup> *CEW*, p. 213; Owen Knowles and Gene M. Moore, *The Oxford Reader's Companion to Conrad* (2000), p. 350 (hereafter *Oxford Companion*). Najder, p. 103, dates the actual offer to the previous month.