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978-1-108-83551-0 — Nostromo

Joseph Conrad, Edited by Roger Osborne, Hugh Epstein

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THE
CAMBRIDGE EDITION OF
THE WORKS OF
JOSEPH CONRAD

Cambridge University Press & Assessment

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NOSTROMO
A TALE OF THE SEABOARD

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A TALE OF THE SEABOARD

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GENERAL EDITOR'S PREFACE

JOSEPH CONRAD'S PLACE in twentieth-century literature is now firmly established. Although his novels, stories and other writings have become integral to modern thought and culture, the need for an accurate and authoritative edition of his works remains. Owing to successive rounds of authorial revision, transmissional errors and deliberate editorial intervention, Conrad's texts exist in various unsatisfactory and sometimes even confused forms.

During the last years of his life he attempted to have his works published in a uniform edition that would fix and preserve them for posterity. But although trusted by scholars, students and the general reader alike, the received texts published in the British and American collected editions, and in various reprintings of them since 1921, have proved to be at least as defective as their predecessors. Grounded in thorough research in the surviving original documents, the Cambridge Edition 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 a critical text of Conrad's *Nostromo* and its prefatory statements. The Cambridge text of the novel is based on original documents where these survive, and where they do not on an authoritative printed text. The copy-texts are emended to incorporate authorial revisions drawn from earlier and later authoritative documents as well as editorial emendations to correct errors.

The 'Introduction' provides a literary history of the work focused on its genesis, sources and early reception, including its place in Conrad's life and art. The essay on 'The Text' traces the textual history of the volume, examines the sources of its individual texts and explains the policies followed in editing them. The 'Apparatus' records basic textual evidence, documenting the discussion of genealogy and authority laid out in 'The Texts: An Essay' as well as other editorial decisions, and the 'Textual Notes' deal with cruxes and textual issues. The 'Explanatory Notes' comment on specific readings that require glosses, dealing with sources, identifying real-life place-names and

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GENERAL EDITOR'S PREFACE

related matters. Glossaries explain nautical terms and foreign words and phrases. Supplementing this material are a map and illustrations.

The textual essay, textual notes, appendices and 'Apparatus' are designed with the textual scholar and specialist in mind, while the 'Introduction', 'Explanatory Notes' and glossaries are intended primarily for a nonspecialist audience.

The support of the institutions listed on p. xi has been essential to the success of this series and is gratefully acknowledged. In addition to those, and the individuals and institutions listed in the Acknowledgements, the General Editor and the Editorial Board also wish to thank the Trustees and beneficiaries of the Estate of Joseph Conrad, Doubleday and Company and J. M. Dent and Company for permission to publish these new texts of Conrad's works.

THE GENERAL EDITOR

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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, James Blank, Rudolph O. Buttlar, Carol A. Cartwright, Cheryl A. Casper, Ron Corthell, Joseph H. Danks, Todd Diacon, Robert Frank, Paul L. Gaston, Alex Gildzen, Cara L. Gilgenbach, Charlee Heimlich, Dean H. Keller, Sanford E. Marovitz, Tim Moerland, Thomas D. Moore, Stephen H. Paschen, Terry P. Roark,

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The facsimiles that precede the textual essay are reproduced by courtesy of the Rosenbach of the Free Library, Philadelphia; and Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

CHRONOLOGY

JOSEPH CONRAD'S life may be seen as having several distinct stages: in the Ukraine, in Russian exile and in Austrian Poland before his father's death (1857–69); in Austrian Poland and the South of France as the ward of his maternal uncle (1870–78); in the British merchant service, mainly as a junior officer sailing in the Far East and Australia (1879–early 1890s); after a transitional period (early 1890s), as writer of critical esteem (1895–1914); as acclaimed writer, although perhaps with his greatest work achieved (1915–24). After 1895 the history of his life is essentially the history of his works.

Publication dates given below are those of the English book editions, except for those of the present volume.

1857	December 3	Józef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski Nałęcz (coat of arms) born in Berdyczów in the Ukraine to Apollo Korzeniowski and Ewelina (or Ewa), née Bobrowska, Korzeniowska
1862	May	Apollo Korzeniowski, his wife and son forced into exile in Russia
1865	April	Ewa Korzeniowska dies of tuberculosis
1867		Conrad visits Odessa with his maternal uncle Tadeusz Bobrowski; perhaps his first view of the sea
1868		Korzeniowski permitted to leave Russia
1869	February	Korzeniowski and Conrad move to Cracow

1870	May	Korzeniowski dies Conrad, ward 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> (to Caribbean)
1876–7		In <i>Saint-Antoine</i> (to Caribbean)
1878	late February or early March	Possibly attempts suicide
	April	Leaves Marseilles in British steamer <i>Mavis</i> (Mediterranean waters)
	June	Lands at Lowestoft, Suffolk; first time in England
	July–September	Sails as ordinary seaman in <i>Skimmer of the Sea</i> (North Sea)
1878–80		In <i>Duke of Sutherland</i> (to Sydney), <i>Europa</i> (Mediterranean waters)
1880		Meets G. F. W. Hope and Adolf Krieger
	June	Passes examination for second mate
1880–81		Third mate in <i>Loch Etive</i> (to Sydney)
1881–4		Second mate in <i>Palestine</i> , <i>Riversdale</i> , <i>Narcissus</i> (Eastern seas)
1884	December	Passes examination for first mate
1885–6		Second mate in <i>Tilkhurst</i> (to Singapore and India)
1886		Submits ‘The Black Mate’, perhaps his first story, to <i>Tit-Bits</i> competition
	August	Becomes a British subject

CHRONOLOGY

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	November	Passes examination for master and receives ‘Certificate of Competency’
1886–7		Second mate in <i>Falconhurst</i> (British waters)
1887–8		First mate in <i>Highland Forest, Vidar</i> (Eastern seas)
1888–9		Captain of barque <i>Otago</i> (Bangkok to Australia and Mauritius)
1889	autumn	Begins <i>Almayer’s Folly</i> in London
1890	February–April	In Poland for first time since 1874
	May–December	In the Congo. Second-in-command, then temporarily as captain, of <i>Roi des Belges</i>
1891		Manages warehouse of Barr, Moering in London
1891–3		First mate in <i>Torrens</i> (London and Plymouth to Adelaide)
1893		Meets John Galsworthy and Edward L. (‘Ted’) Sanderson (passengers on <i>Torrens</i>)
	autumn	Visits Bobrowski in the Ukraine
	November	Signs on as second mate in <i>Adowa</i> , which sails only to Rouen and back
1894	January	Signs off <i>Adowa</i> , ending career as seaman
	February	Bobrowski dies
	autumn	Meets Edward Garnett and Jessie George
1895	April	<i>Almayer’s Folly</i>
1896	March	<i>An Outcast of the Islands</i> . Marries Jessie George
	September	Settles in Stanford-le-Hope, Essex, after six-month honeymoon in Brittany

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1897		Begins friendship with R. B. Cunninghame Graham; meets Henry James and Stephen Crane
	December	<i>The Nigger of the 'Narcissus'</i>
1898		Meets Ford Madox (Hueffer) Ford and H. G. Wells
	January	Alfred Borys Leo Conrad born
	April	<i>Tales of Unrest</i>
	October	Moves to Pent Farm, Postling near Hythe, Kent, sublet from Ford
1899	February–April	'The Heart of Darkness' in <i>Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine</i>
1900	September	Begins association with literary agent J. B. Pinker
	October	<i>Lord Jim</i>
1901	June	<i>The Inheritors</i> (with Ford)
1902	November	<i>Youth: A Narrative and Two Other Stories</i>
		'Nostromo' first mentioned as possible title for a short story
	December	Begins writing 'Nostromo'
1903	February 5	Plans to complete <i>Nostromo</i> as a 35,000-word story by the end of the month
	March 17	Now sees <i>Nostromo</i> as a story of 75–80,000 words
	April	<i>Typhoon and Other Stories</i>
	May 5	Meets George Harvey (Harper & Brothers) to discuss publication rights of <i>Nostromo</i>
	October	<i>Romance</i> (with Ford)
	December	Ford steps in as amanuensis, producing a small batch of manuscript from Conrad's dictation

CHRONOLOGY

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1904	January 29	Serialization of <i>Nostromo</i> begins in <i>T. P.'s Weekly</i> (concludes October)
	March 2	Secures, through Pinker, the secretarial services of Lilian Hallowes
	April 5	Begins dictating <i>Nostromo</i> to Lilian Hallowes
	August 30	Finishes manuscript version of <i>Nostromo</i>
	September 24	Working on final proofs of <i>Nostromo</i> for Harper & Brothers
	October 14	<i>Nostromo</i> published by Harper & Brothers in London, and by the same publisher in America, 23 November
1905	June	<i>One Day More</i> staged in London
1906	August	John Alexander Conrad born
	October	<i>The Mirror of the Sea</i>
1907	September	<i>The Secret Agent</i> . Moves to Someries, Luton, Bedfordshire
1908	August 6	<i>A Set of Six</i>
1909		Moves to Aldington, Kent
1910		Moves to Capel House, Orlestone, Kent
1911	October	<i>Under Western Eyes</i>
1912	January	<i>Some Reminiscences</i> (as <i>A Personal Record</i> in America)
	October	<i>Twixt Land and Sea</i>
1913	September	<i>Chance</i> , with 'main' publication date of January 1914
1914	July 25	Departs for Austrian Poland with family; delayed by outbreak of First World War
	November 3	Arrives back in England (via Vienna and Genoa) from Continent

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CHRONOLOGY

1915	February	<i>Within the Tides</i>
	March	<i>Victory</i>
1917	March	<i>The Shadow-Line</i>
	November	Writes ‘Author’s Note’ to <i>Nostromo</i>
1918	January	Dent’s publishes second English edition of <i>Nostromo</i>
1919	August	<i>The Arrow of Gold</i>
	October	Moves to Oswalds, Bishopsbourne, near Canterbury, Kent
1920	June	<i>The Rescue</i>
1921	January–April	Visits Corsica. Collected editions begin publication in England (Heinemann) and in America (Doubleday)
	February	<i>Notes on Life and Letters</i>
1922	November	<i>The Secret Agent</i> staged in London
1923	May–June	Visits America, guest of F. N. Doubleday
	November	<i>The Rover</i>
1924	May	Declines knighthood
	August 3	Dies at Oswalds. Roman Catholic funeral and burial, Canterbury
	September	<i>The Nature of a Crime</i> (with Ford)
	October	<i>The Shorter Tales of Joseph Conrad</i>
1925	January	<i>Tales of Hearsay</i>
	September	<i>Suspense</i> (unfinished)
1926	March	<i>Last Essays</i>
1928	June	<i>The Sisters</i>

ABBREVIATIONS AND NOTE ON EDITIONS

ABBREVIATIONS

[London is the place of publication unless otherwise specified.]

<i>Bibliography</i>	William R. Cagle and John G. Peters, 'A Bibliography of Joseph Conrad', unpublished typescript
Brice	Xavier Brice, 'There's Many a Slip: The Writing of <i>Nostromo</i> ', unpublished PhD dissertation in 2 vols, University of Kent at Canterbury, 2002
Burton	Captain Richard F. Burton, <i>Letters from the Battle-Fields of Paraguay</i> . London: Tinsley Brothers, 1870
CR	<i>Joseph Conrad: The Contemporary Reviews</i> . General Editors Allan H. Simmons, John G. Peters and J. H. Stape, with Richard Niland, Mary Burgoyne and Katherine Isobel Baxter. 5 vols. Cambridge University Press, 2012–2023
Crawford	Robert Crawford, <i>South American Sketches</i> . London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1898
Curreli 1999	Mario Curreli, 'Genuine Genoese Names in <i>Nostromo</i> ', <i>Conradiana</i> , 31 (1999), 99–108
Curreli 2008	Mario Curreli, 'Garibaldian Names in <i>Nostromo</i> ', <i>The Conradian</i> , 33, no. 2 (2008), 80–97
Curtis	W. E. Curtis, <i>Venezuela: A Land Where It's Always Summer</i> . London: Osgood, McIlvaine & Co., 1896
CWW	Norman Sherry, <i>Conrad's Western World</i> . Cambridge University Press, 1971
Dance	Charles Daniel Dance, <i>Recollections of Four Years in Venezuela</i> . London: Henry S. King & Co., 1876
<i>Documents</i>	<i>Conrad between the Lines: Documents in a Life</i> , ed.

- Gene M. Moore, Allan H. Simmons and J. H. Stape. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2000
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	<i>Notes of Personal Observations and Reminiscences of Diplomacy under Difficulties</i> . 2 vols. Boston: Lee & Shepard, Publishers, 1871
World's Classics 1984	<i>Nostromo</i> . Introduction and notes by Keith Carabine. World's Classics. Oxford University Press, 1984

LOCATIONS OF UNPUBLISHED DOCUMENTS

Huntington	Huntington Library, San Marino, California
Rosenbach	Rosenbach of the Free Library of Philadelphia
Yale	Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

NOTE ON EDITIONS

REFERENCES TO Conrad's works are to the Cambridge Edition of the Works of Joseph Conrad where these have been published. Otherwise, for the sake of convenience, references are to Dent's Collected Edition, 1946–55, whose pagination is identical with that of the various 'editions' published by Doubleday throughout the 1920s. References to the Cambridge Edition take the following form: title (year of publication), whereas publication dates are not provided for citations from Dent's Collected Edition.

Citations from critical and other works are identified by author, title and date only.