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Preface books

康拉德导读



A Preface to

Conrad

[英] Cedric Watts 著



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总 序

1970年英国朗文出版集团 Pearson 教育出版社出版了《华兹华斯导读》，作者是华兹华斯研究专家约翰·珀金斯。该书首先提供华兹华斯的基本信息，介绍诗人的教育背景、哲学和宗教思想，特别强调了他与英国当时经济发展的关系，随后对华兹华斯各个时期代表作品进行深入细致的解读，分析其诗歌创作的成就及其特点，最后提供相关资料，如华兹华斯圈子内的人、阅读书目等信息。《华兹华斯导读》是一部学习和研究华兹华斯诗歌极为有用的参考书，深受学生、教师和研究工作者欢迎。时隔多年，Pearson 教育出版社又推出《华兹华斯导读》修订版，原作者对该书内容作了调整，并增加对自传体长诗《序曲》的论述。《华兹华斯导读》是 Pearson 教育出版社出版的“英国文学名家导读丛书”第一册，入选该丛书的其他名家有莎士比亚、弥尔顿、邓恩、斯威夫特、蒲柏、约翰逊、雪莱、济慈、奥斯丁、狄更斯、勃朗特姐妹、霍普金斯、王尔德、哈代、康拉德、H. G. 威尔斯、E. M. 福斯特、欧文、劳伦斯、庞德、T. S. 艾略特、乔伊斯、奥威尔、格林等，在时间上涵盖文艺复兴、新古典主义、浪漫主义、现实主义、现代主义及战后等不同历史阶段，在文体上包括小说、诗歌、戏剧等文学样式。

“英国文学名家导读丛书”作为一套“学术与研究丛书”，旨在向英国名家作品的读者提供“现代和权威的导引”，帮助他们克服在阅读时遇到的特有的困难，达到“智性理解和艺术欣赏”之目的。一如《华兹华斯导读》，该丛书各册的结构一般分为三个部分，第一部分是关于作家的生平经历，所处的历史时代背景，所受到的文学、文化、宗教、哲学思潮的影响。第二部分是评论研究，以文本分析为主，涉及作家的代表性作品、创作思想、艺术手法，同时展示各种研究视角。第三部分是参考信息，包括对作家有重要影响或与作家关系密切的人物的简介、较为完备的研究书目等内容。

“英国文学名家导读丛书”各册的作者均为学有所成的专家学者，他们学术研究功底深厚，对英语文学文化传统以及当代西方文学理论有深入了解，注意将作家及其作品置于历史和社会文化背景之下，对文本进行深度解读，论证充分，剖析精辟，有不少独到的见解，形成了鲜明特色。例如，《莎士比亚喜剧导读》从研究笑的社会功能入手，分析莎剧中的幽默和丑角，将伊丽莎白时代观众对喜剧的期待与二十世纪读者对莎士比亚喜剧的接受进行区别。《莎士比亚悲剧导读》研究莎士比亚四大悲剧，对莎士比亚的语言有精当的论述。《弥尔顿导读》精选诗人不同时期的诗篇进行细读，有效帮助现代读者理解弥尔顿作品中所包含的清教主义思想以及他的诗歌艺术。《奥斯丁导读》对奥斯丁与十八世纪文学的关系进行梳理，详尽分析了她的人物塑造和小说结构，并专门讨论《爱玛》中的两位男性人物。《王尔德导读》按照王尔德的创作轨迹评析他的诗歌、小说、社会喜剧和自传，试图解开他经久不衰的魅力之谜，对王尔德的性倾向问题也有专门论述。《哈代导读》展示了哈代在小说中描写悲剧情感和普遍人性时所表现出来的深度和力度，并有专门章节讨论他的短篇小说和诗歌创作成就。《康拉德导读》揭示了康拉德复杂的欧洲文化思想背景，关于《诺斯特罗摩》的解读成为全书的亮点。《劳伦斯导读》将劳伦斯的生平经历、时代背景与文学创作结合起来考察，对《儿子与情人》和《虹》的评析清晰明了，令人信服。《庞德导读》以较多的篇幅介绍庞德这位有争议的诗人的生活 and 文学、文化、政治背景，对其鸿篇巨制《诗章》内容的复杂性以及诗人在二十世纪诗歌中的地位进行较为客观中肯的评析论述。《艾略特导读》强调了历史文化传统在艾略特生活和文学创作中的重要性，对他的代表作品诗歌《荒原》、《四个四重奏》和诗剧《大教堂谋杀案》作了现代阐释。《乔伊斯导读》分析了乔伊斯作品中的爱尔兰文学意识和现代主义特征，对《一个青年艺术家的画像》、《尤利西斯》和《芬尼根的苏醒》文本的分析解读起到了解惑释疑的功能，是学习乔伊斯小说的良师益友。

“英国文学名家导读丛书”各册均由相关领域的专家学者一人独撰，这保证了书中内容结构的系统性和连贯性。该丛书注重学术严谨性，考证细致，阐释得当，同时，论述力求深入浅出，体现导读的特点，既有综合介绍，又有重点分析，可读性强。丛书的作者把作家的文本适当地穿引在评述之中，从而使得论证有理有据，没有脱离文本。书中采用各种研究视角，对一般读者具有启迪作用。作为教学与研究参考书，该丛书的资料不仅丰富全面，而且准确可靠。参考文献汇总了该领域的研究成果，很有针

对性,是查询相关材料的好助手。分类索引便于读者快捷地了解到所需信息在书中的位置。另外,书中附有珍贵的人物照片、历史地图、插图等,图文并茂成为该丛书的一个特点。

Pearson 教育出版社在上世纪七十年代推出“英国文学名家导读丛书”后,受到读者好评。为使该丛书及时反映学术研究最新进展,扩大其规模和影响,Pearson 教育出版社对已出版的导读进行修订再版,并继续出版新的导读。长期以来,我国高校英语文学教学与研究原版书刊匮乏,学生写论文时收集资料成为一大难题,教师和研究人员开展学术研究也受资料不足的制约,影响了研究工作的质量和水平。北京大学出版社决定引进 Pearson 教育出版社的“英国文学名家导读丛书”,将有助于改变这种状况。惠普尔说:“书籍是屹立在时间的汪洋上的灯塔。”对于在英国文学海洋中畅游的众多学子来说,该丛书如同灯塔一样,可以起到指引作用。

“英国文学名家导读丛书”在中国出版,将促进我们国家的英国文学教学和研究工作。

王守仁

南京大学外国语学院教授

2005 年 1 月



Foreword to the first edition

This authoritative volume sets forth both informed personal response and academic knowledge in the service of the student of the novels of Joseph Conrad. The views that this Polish novelist held constituted a unique aristocratic and artistic reading of human nature and its aims and philosophy: they have to some degree been heard from other Europeans or Americans in our century but before Conrad hardly at all in England. Cedric Watts, offering an account of his subject's beliefs and literary output, furnishes the reader at the same time with an introduction to much early twentieth-century thought and culture also.

The earlier sections that constitute Part One, whose rationale is explained on pp. 7–8, should be read as varied modes of access to Conrad's own writings. They govern the highly effective discussion of his art following in Part Two. Here, after a close commentary upon a number of passages from the novels in order to accustom the reader to the linguistic development and modernist overtones of a writer who came to English out of Polish and through French as his second language, follows a substantial essay on *Nostromo*. I know no more thorough and yet imaginative discussion of this novel than forms the crown of the whole Preface. How Conrad's varied experiences prepared him for writing that masterpiece is one of the principal purposes and accomplishments of Dr Watts's contribution to the series. This he does most helpfully after an extensive and intimate awareness of everything that Conrad left us, through which he speaks most powerfully to us today.

MAURICE HUSSEY
General Editor

Maurice Hussey died suddenly in June 1991. The Publishers and author would like to pay tribute to his wisdom, inspiration and friendship as Editor of Preface Books. He will be sadly missed.



Acknowledgements and editorial notes

Unless otherwise specified, quotations from Conrad's novels, tales, essays and autobiographical volumes are taken from the Collected Edition published by J.M. Dent & Sons, London, between 1946 and 1955. (This Collected Edition does not include all Conrad's works.)

In any quotation, a row of three points (. . .) indicates an ellipsis already present in the printed text, whereas a row of five points indicates an omission that I have made. When discussing *Nostromo*, I correct the novel's accentuation of Spanish names.

When preparing Part One of this book, I was helped by Jocelyn Baines' *Joseph Conrad: A Critical Biography*, Norman Sherry's *Conrad and His World* and Zdzisław Najder's *Joseph Conrad: A Chronicle*. In Parts One and Two I have drawn on my previous writings about Conrad, particularly *Conrad's 'Heart of Darkness': A Critical and Contextual Discussion*, *The Deceptive Text: An Introduction to Covert Plots* and *Joseph Conrad: A Literary Life*.

For advice and guidance, I am indebted to the late Maurice Hussey (the original General Editor of the series) and to R.A. Foakes, M.B. Hryniewicz-Moczulski, Barbara Koc, Susan Salters and Alan Sinfield. To Hans van Marle I owe special gratitude for his generously unstinting help in many matters concerning Conrad's life and works. Preparation of the second edition of my *Preface to Conrad* has enabled me, accordingly, to make various revisions; and I apologise to these advisors for any blemishes which, in spite of careful checking, may mar the new text. I thank all those reviewers, colleagues and students who made encouraging comments on the first edition and whose suggestions have helped me to bring the second edition up to date. I have added substantial new material to Chapters 7, 8 and 9, and to the Reference Section. Numerous minor changes have been made to the other parts of the book.

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Abbreviations

With a few clearly-indicated exceptions, the quotations from Conrad's novels, tales, essays and autobiographical works are from the Collected Edition published by J.M. Dent & Sons (London, 1946-55).

- AF** Joseph Conrad, *Almayer's Folly* (London: Dent, 1947).
Baines Jocelyn Baines, *Joseph Conrad: A Critical Biography* (London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1960).
BB Joseph Conrad, *Letters to William Blackwood and David S. Meldrum*, ed. William Blackburn (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 1958).
CL *The Collected Letters of Joseph Conrad*, ed. Frederick R. Karl and Laurence Davies (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Vol. I, 1983; Vol. II, 1986; Vol. III, 1988; Vol. IV, 1990).
CN Albert Guerard, *Conrad the Novelist* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1958).
CP Avrom Fleishman, *Conrad's Politics* (Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins Press, 1967).
CWW Norman Sherry, *Conrad's Western World* (London: Cambridge University Press, 1971).
EG *Letters from Conrad, 1895 to 1924*, ed. Edward Garnett (London: Nonesuch Press, 1928).
HD 'Heart of Darkness' in 'Youth', 'Heart of Darkness' and 'The End of the Tether': *Three Stories* (London: Dent, 1946).
KRZ *Joseph Conrad: Centennial Essays*, ed. Ludwik Krzyżanowski (New York: Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences, 1960).
LCG *Joseph Conrad's Letters to R.B. Cunninghame Graham*, ed. Cedric Watts (London: Cambridge University Press, 1969).
LE *Joseph Conrad: Last Essays* (London: Dent, 1955).
LL *Joseph Conrad: Life & Letters*, ed. G. Jean-Aubry, 2 vols (London: Heinemann, 1927).
N Joseph Conrad: *Nostromo* (London: Dent, 1947).
Najder *Conrad's Polish Background*, ed. Zdzisław Najder (London: Oxford University Press, 1964).
NLL Joseph Conrad, *Notes on Life and Letters* (London: Dent, 1949).
NN Joseph Conrad, *The Nigger of the 'Narcissus'* (London: Dent, 1950).

Abbreviations

- PR* Joseph Conrad, *A Personal Record* (London: Dent, 1946).
R Joseph Conrad, *The Rescue* (London: Dent, 1949).
SL Joseph Conrad, *The Shadow-Line* (London: Dent, 1950).
TH Joseph Conrad, *Tales of Hearsay* (London: Dent, 1955).
TLAS Joseph Conrad, *'Twixt Land and Sea: Three Tales* (London: Dent, 1947).
TU Joseph Conrad, *Tales of Unrest* (London: Dent, 1947).
UWE Joseph Conrad, *Under Western Eyes* (London: Dent, 1947).
V Joseph Conrad, *Victory* (London: Dent, 1948).
Y Joseph Conrad, 'Youth', 'Heart of Darkness' and 'The End of the Tether': *Three Stories* (London: Dent, 1946).



The only legitimate basis of creative work lies in the courageous recognition of all the irreconcilable antagonisms that make our life so enigmatic, so burdensome, so fascinating, so dangerous – so full of hope.

(Joseph Conrad: letter to the *New York Times*, 2 August 1901)



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A Preface to

Conrad



康拉德
导读

Part One

The Writer and his Setting

Chronological table

CONRAD'S LIFE

- 1853
- 1856 Marriage of Apollo Korzeniowski to Ewelina Bobrowska at Oratów in partitioned Poland.
- 1857 Birth of their son, Józef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski (later to be known as Joseph Conrad).
- 1859 Family moves to Żytomierz.
- 1860–61
- 1861 Apollo arrested in Warsaw for patriotic conspiracy.
- 1862 Conrad's parents exiled to Vologda, Russia; he accompanies them.
- 1863 Family moves to Chernikhov.
- 1865 Death of Conrad's mother.
- 1866 Stays with uncle at Nowochwastów.
- 1869 Death of Apollo Korzeniowski.

OTHER EVENTS

- Crimean War begins.
- Crimean War ends. Freud born.
- Flaubert, *Madame Bovary*.
Baudelaire, *Fleurs du mal*.
- Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*.
Darwin, *Origin of Species*.
- Dickens, *Great Expectations*.
- Turgenev, *Fathers and Sons*.
- Polish uprising.
- Birth of Kipling.
- Dostoyevsky, *Crime and Punishment*.
- Tolstoy, *War and Peace*.



Chronological table

1870	Taught by Adam Pulman in Kraków.	Dickens dies. Lenin born.
1871	Also taught by Izydor Kopernicki.	Dostoyevsky, <i>The Devils</i> .
1872	Resolves to go to sea.	George Eliot, <i>Middlemarch</i> .
1874	Leaves Poland for Marseille to become a seaman.	Hardy, <i>Far from the Madding Crowd</i> .
1875	Sails Atlantic in <i>Mont-Blanc</i> .	Thomas Mann born.
1876	Serves as steward of <i>Saint-Antoine</i> .	Death of George Sand.
1877	Possibly involved in smuggling arms.	Tolstoy, <i>Anna Karenina</i> .
1878	Suicide attempt. Later enters British Merchant Navy.	Afghan War. Congress of Berlin.
1879	Serves on <i>Duke of Sutherland</i> .	Ibsen, <i>A Doll's House</i> .
1880	Sails to Australia in <i>Loch Etive</i> .	Dostoyevsky, <i>Brothers Karamazov</i> .
1881	Second mate of <i>Palestine</i> .	Death of Dostoyevsky and Carlyle.
1882	Storm-damaged <i>Palestine</i> repaired.	Birth of James Joyce and Virginia Woolf.
1883	Shipwrecked when <i>Palestine</i> sinks.	Marx dies. Mussolini born.
1885	Sails to Calcutta in <i>Tilkhurst</i> .	Birth of D.H. Lawrence.
1886	Takes British nationality; qualifies as captain.	Cunninghame Graham becomes MP.