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# Joseph Conrad

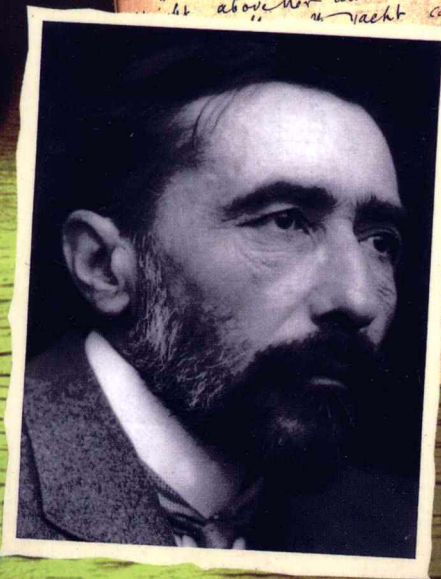
## 约瑟夫·康拉德

CHRIS FLETCHER

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The Rescue: A Romance of Narrow Waters.  
Part Second.  
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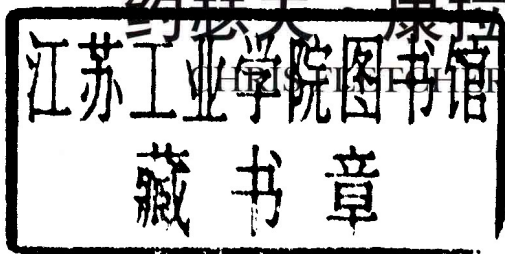
The coast, off which the little brig floating  
above her anchor seemed to ~~stand~~ guard  
connected over heavily  
for the total ab-  
sence of features. It is  
stretching away, wide  
and low - under  
lots of the North-East  
rain as ~~the~~ ~~hauling~~  
is faintly and  
black and  
like the straight  
shore. ~~Hardly~~ In the  
old days it presents  
some green, a narrow  
~~crushed~~



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# *Joseph Conrad*

约瑟夫·康拉德



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# 总序

普通中国读者，包括英语专业的学生，对于英国文学的了解一般只限于个别经典作品，而对作家其人其事及其整个文学创作情况所知甚少。其中部分的原因是文学史家们编写的英国文学史往往注重介绍作品的情节内容，对作家的生活经历、作品的具体创作过程着墨不多。上海外语教育出版社从英国大英图书馆出版社(The British Library)引进出版“英国作家生平丛书”，弥补了这方面的缺憾。该丛书以图文并茂的形式讲述莎士比亚等14位英国著名作家的生平故事，同时穿插介绍他们的作品，有助于充实读者对英国文学的认识。

英国文学源远流长，经历了长期复杂的发展演变过程。在这个过程中，文学本体以外的各种现实的、历史的、政治的、文化的力量对文学发生着影响，而作家个体的独特生活遭遇也是造就文学杰作的一个重要因素。“英国作家生平丛书”对14位名家的传记式介绍，充分展示了这一点。戏剧方面，莎士比亚是英国文艺复兴时期最杰出的剧作家，他当过演员，其作品思想内容深刻、艺术表现手法精湛，历经几个世纪长演不衰。诗歌方面，浪漫主义诗人华兹华斯、柯勒律治、拜伦、济慈的不同身世对他们的诗歌创作及艺术风格产生深刻影响；维多利亚时代诗人伊丽莎白·巴雷特和罗伯特·布朗宁的爱情故事是英国文坛的一段佳话。小说方面，狄更斯是19世纪英国最伟大的小说家，他的许多小说以孤儿为主人公，这与作家童年时代的一段不幸经历有关；康拉德来自波兰，将自己奇特的身世背景和航海经历交融在字里行间；女作家奥斯丁、玛丽·雪莱、勃朗特姐妹、伍尔夫以女性特有的视角和敏锐的观察描摹人性与社会，思考妇女的生存状况，她们的小说无论在思想主题、题材表现方面，还是在叙述手法上，都有创新，对推动英国文学的发展作出了突出贡献。

“英国作家生平丛书”原版由大英图书馆出版社出版，体现出图书馆出版物的特点。书中配有大量的插图，有些是珍贵的手稿，有些是罕见的照片，有些是博物馆或美术馆珍藏的油画和素描，让读者有幸一睹作家的风采，产生直观的感觉。这些插图带有不同时代的印记，营造出浓厚的历史感。丛书的作者均为专业领域里有着较深造诣的学者，对史料的掌握系统全面，他们用生动的语言娓娓讲述作家生平事迹，点评具体文学作品，书末还附有供读者进一步阅读的书单，推荐了有代表性的文献，对英语专业学生撰写课程论文或毕业论文很有帮助。

“英国作家生平丛书”内容有趣，插图精美，文字简洁，兼顾普及性和专业性，是学习和了解英国文学的良师益友。

王守仁  
南京大学

# 导 读



约瑟夫·康拉德 (Joseph Conrad, 1857–1924) 原名叫约泽夫·特奥多·康拉德·考兹约夫斯基 (Jozef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski), 是 20 世纪英国著名的小说家。

1857 年 12 月 3 日, 康拉德出生于曾为波兰属地, 现今为乌克兰地区的波狄切夫 (Berdichev)。他的父亲阿波罗·考兹约夫斯基是一位波兰爱国诗人、革命者, 遭到沙皇俄国统治阶级的迫害和流放, 于 1869 年去世。小康拉德由其舅父抚养长大。年幼的康拉德有两个梦想: 当海员和做一个英国公民。1874 年, 他的第一个梦想实现了。他随船到了马提尼克岛, 尔后又在一艘法国商船上做前桅手, 先后去过拉丁美洲的马提尼克岛和印度。1878 年, 他与一艘英国轮船公司签约, 并开始了为期六年的往来于英国的洛威斯托夫港和纽卡斯尔港的航行。在此期间, 康拉德开始学习英语, 分别于 1880 年和 1884 年通过了二副和大副的考试。1886 年他加入英国国籍, 实现了他的第二个梦想, 同时也取得了船长合格证书。1886 年他第一次受命出海, 并在以后的十年中遨游了美洲、印度和远东地区。尤其是他在马来群岛和刚果的经历为他日后的创作提供了丰富翔实的素材。

长期以来, 康拉德被认为是专写海上生活的新浪漫主义作家。他那些对东方国家绚丽景色的描述、对马来西亚那具有浪漫气息题材的发掘以及对那些他所不熟悉的地区的真实反映, 使他的作品具有一种丰厚而又亮丽的品质。但所有这一切只说明了康拉德作品的一个方面。康拉德在作品中更多的是通过上述描写来探索人类道德问题以及这些问题在人类经验里的表现与意义。在某种意义上讲, 康拉德的这种对其人物的洞察入微和对道



德问题的执着探索又使他成为一个严肃的现实主义小说家。

康拉德开始文学创作起步较晚，但著述颇丰。他一生中共完成 17 部长篇小说（含与他人合作），此外还写有大量的短篇小说、戏剧等。其主要作品有：《阿尔迈耶的愚蠢》（*Almayer's Folly*, 1895）、《那喀索斯的黑人》（*The Nigger of the Narcissus*, 1897）、《吉姆爷》（*Lord Jim*, 1900）、《继承人》（*The Inheritors*, 1901，与福特·马多克斯·福特合作）、《青年》（*Youth*, 1902）、《黑暗的心》（*Heart of Darkness*, 1902）、《秘密的分担者》（*The Secret Sharer*, 1912）以及《胜利》（*Victory*, 1915）。

《那喀索斯的黑人》是康拉德第一部获得全面成功的小说。他投入全部精力来写这部作品，以期能通过这部作品实现自己的文学主张。在这部小说中，康拉德认真考察研究了一个神秘、忧郁的黑人水手詹姆士·威特和他对“那喀索斯”<sup>①</sup>号船及其船员的影响。小说的情节并不紧张，而主要是以其独特的基调和风格取胜。作者用“那喀索斯”号船名来暗示黑人水手威特的性格。

发表于 1900 年的长篇小说《吉姆爷》通常被视为康拉德的代表作。这部小说重视心理描写，故事错综复杂而且惊险。作者试图揭示英国人传统的荣誉观念及其对一个还算正派的青年人心灵的影响。故事是由一个名叫马娄的人间接叙述的。吉姆本人的思想观点从未直接表述过。我们只能通过他的行为和他与马娄的交谈来考察他的内心活动。

这部介绍英国著名作家约瑟夫·康拉德的传记按照时间顺序，较为详细地介绍了他的生平和创作。除此之外，该书的作者还在书中配有许多具有史料价值的图片，为我们深入研究有关康拉德的个人生活、作品手稿、出版情况、风土人情、社会风貌等提供宝贵的视觉资料。

乔国强

上海外国语大学

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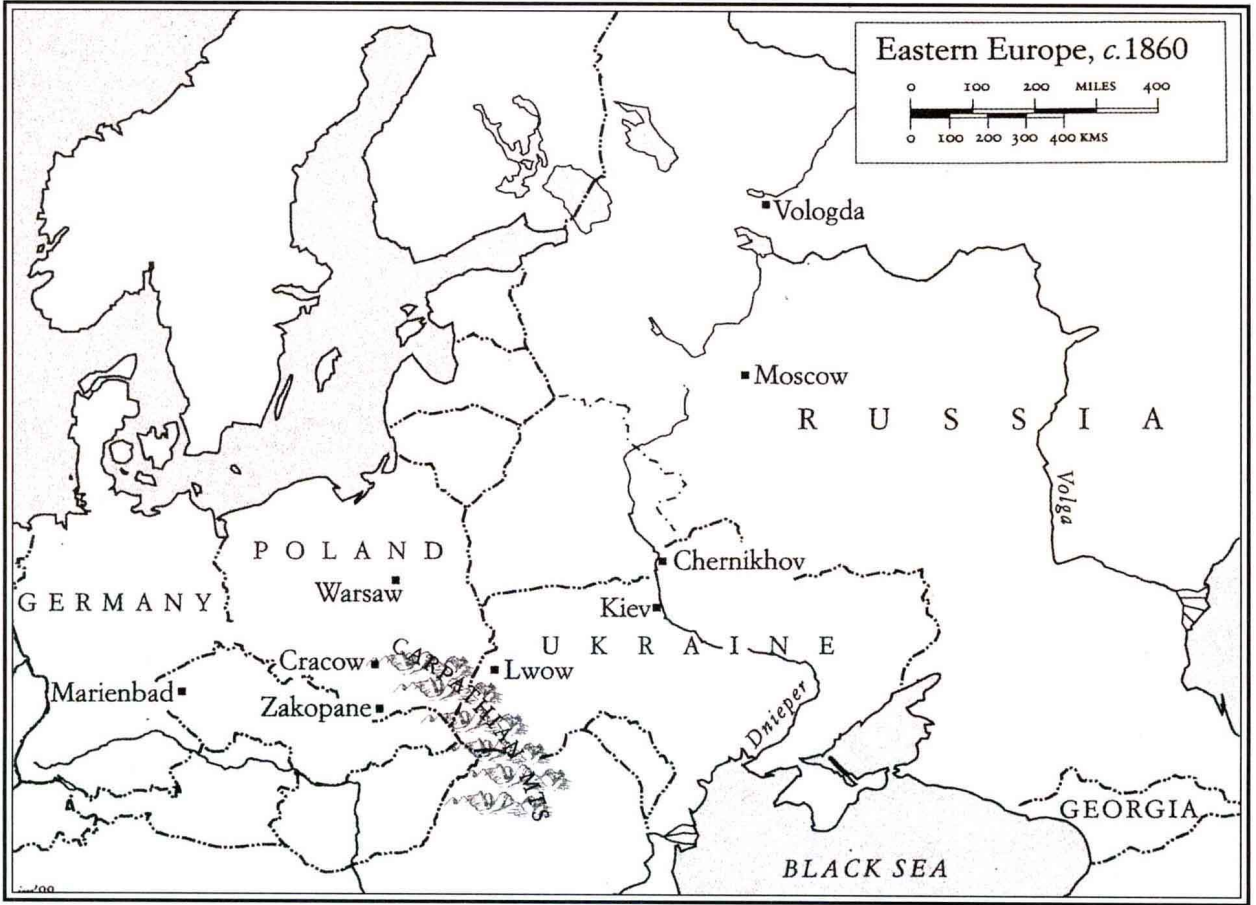
① 那喀索斯是希腊神话中的一个美少年，因拒绝回声女神 Echo 的求爱而受到惩罚，死后化为水仙花。





FOR CHRIS BARLOW









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## 'My Hazardous Childhood'

On a fine day in May 1869 a solemn crowd of thousands led by an eleven-year-old boy moved through the streets of Cracow to the mournful tolling of bells. The occasion was the funeral of Apollo Korzeniowski, Polish patriot and revolutionary; the boy, his only son. The young Jozef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski, noble, exile and now orphan, had already led an extraordinary life. How much more extraordinary that after many years sailing the seas, he would emerge as Joseph Conrad, an Englishman and one of the world's greatest writers.

*Apollo Korzeniowski,  
Conrad's father.*

*Yale University Library*

Conrad was born in the Ukraine on 3 December 1857, to parents whose families had long been involved in the turbulent history of their country. Poland had ceased to be one of the foremost powers in Europe in 1795, when it was divided up between foreign powers, among which Russia was the most important. Apollo, descended from an ancient noble family, inherited a revolutionary ardour which manifested itself in numerous uprisings against the Russians. His father's lands were confiscated in one such rebellion, that of 1830, when he was eleven years old.

All the resentment inspired by his country's burden, his family's oppression and his own humble position as an estate's manager gathered force and focus as Apollo himself entered fatherhood. In a christening song 'To My son born in the 85th year of Muscovite oppression', he grimly laments of the infant Conrad that 'You are without land, without love, without country, without people, while Poland - your mother - is in her grave'.







*Ewalina Bobrowska,  
Conrad's mother.*

*Yale University Library*

Zytomierz. The revolutionary winds which gathered in this province soon fanned the flame of his smouldering political sentiments and the dangerous, clandestine world of radical patriotism claimed him as its own. In 1861 he was drawn to Warsaw, an even more volatile city still reeling from the violent suppression of two vast patriotic demonstrations. Apollo was by now an established author and translator, and his declared aim was to start a literary magazine. His more fervent intent revealed itself as he emerged a charismatic revolutionary leader.

Meanwhile, Conrad remained in the Ukraine on his grandmother's estate with his mother. Ewa's letters to Apollo reveal a loving wife and mother yearning for her husband's return yet keenly aware of the dangers which rendered this impossible.

Conrad's mother came from a more moderate background. The Bobrowskis, although patriots, had always measured the consequences of their political and military actions a little more carefully than the Korzeniowskis. For this reason Ewalina brought to their marriage, on 8 May 1856, not only considerable beauty and warmth of personality, but a substantial dowry and the security of a family which had managed to retain at least some of its lands. Not surprisingly, her parents regarded Apollo with suspicion; according to her brother, Tadeusz, their mother found him 'irresponsible and erratic in behaviour', while their father thought him unpractical and lazy.

The concerns of Ewalina's parents proved well founded. Before long, Apollo had managed to lose, in addition to his own money, his wife's nine thousand roubles in silver. After a further three years he lost patience with his tedious estate work and took his family to



Her son's earliest extant piece of writing (appended to one of her letters) echoes her sadness, its description of trivial frustrations and hopes providing an unwittingly ironic commentary on the dark scenes played out on a larger stage: 'Daddy, I am fine here, I run about the garden - but I don't like it much when the mosquitos bite. As soon as the rain stops I will come to you.' Despite this forlorn situation, Ewa wrote to Apollo that 'Konradek is a good boy: it is amazing how God lets him win people's hearts'. His grandmother concurred: 'no pen could catch and render all the shades of goodness that child has in him ... I suspect that our dear Konradzio will grow into an exceptional man with a great heart.'

Ewa and Conrad eventually risked travelling to Warsaw, where the family barely had time to celebrate their reunion. The authorities finally caught up with Apollo, who was arrested for clandestine political activities and sentenced to seven months in prison. The traumatized Ewa, increasingly weak from the symptoms of tuberculosis, described to friends

how her husband was taken on 20 October, just after the clocks had struck midnight: 'We were both awake: he writing, I reading. Six minutes after the doorbell had rung he was gone from the house.' Among other dressed-up charges, Apollo was accused of instigating brawls in coffee shops. Although spared imprisonment, Ewa herself did not escape censure. She had, for example, distributed mourning dress to the colleagues of fallen protestors. No doubt Conrad's entreaties for such an outfit rendered even him a criminal in the eyes of the authorities.



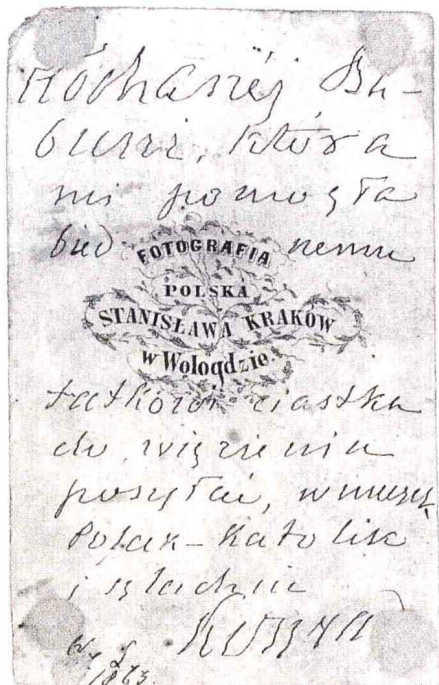
*Joseph Conrad in 1862,  
with whip.*

*British Library*





On his release from prison Apollo was sentenced to exile. Conrad and his mother barely survived the gruelling journey through the vast Russian wastes to the remote town of Vologda. Ewa's tubercular condition and her son's fever were treated along the way by applying leeches to draw the blood. There was little improvement in their comfort when they arrived on 16 June 1862. The log house in which the family would stay was depressingly spartan and, like the others which huddled around it, quite unable to defend its occupants from the ravages of the weather. Apollo complained to friends that 'even when the stoves are red-hot, after several days of frost a white moss appears in the corners of the warmest of dwellings'. It was so very cold he continued, managing to summon a certain amount of grim humour, that 'if the Pharisees, having tortured Christ to death, buried him in Vologda, there would be no need for seals or guards - the act of our redemption would still be lying in cold storage'.



Redemption of some kind was what they sought, yet several months into the unrelenting tedium of their isolation the only news heard by the exiles was that a major Polish insurrection had been mercilessly crushed by the Russians. Their relatives were among the casualties. 'We are stunned by despair', wrote Apollo. Conrad, in a gesture of sympathy and defiance, sent a photograph of himself 'to my beloved Grandma who helped me send cakes to my poor Daddy in prison', signing it 'grandson, Pole, Catholic, nobleman - 6 July 1863 - Konrad.' He now knew that the benign supports upon which he had unquestioningly depended could be threatened and lost. His mother, her illness deepening, would emerge from this period in his memories 'with more distinctness than a mere loving, wide-browed, silent, protecting presence'.

In an act of mercy which came not a moment too soon, the family were allowed by the authorities to move further south to the more hospitable Chernikhov. From here Conrad and his

mother were granted a further temporary concession and travelled to the Bobrowski estate 120 miles away in Nowofastow. Conrad played for three sun-drenched summer months in the 'great unfenced fields' with his cousin, 'a delightful, quick-tempered little girl'. He barely noticed the comings and goings of the sober-faced doctors attending his mother. The summer disappeared all too quickly before mother and son were obliged to return to Chernikhov. Conrad recalled the moment of their enforced departure: 'the ... shabby travelling carriage with four post-horses standing before the long front of the house with its eight columns ... on the steps, groups of servants, a few relations, one or two friends from the nearest neighbourhood, a perfect silence, on all the faces an air of sober concentration.'

Back in Chernikhov Ewa's illness drew towards its sad conclusion, despite her distraught husband's pleas for better doctors and a healthier place of exile. Apollo sank into a 'black sorrow', lamenting of his wife that 'only occasionally a stronger embrace for myself or Konradek tells of her courage'. Ewa died on 18 April 1865. Apollo haunted her grave, confessing to a friend that 'my deepest beliefs are shaken; doubts consume all my thoughts'. He took what solace he could in his son, making 'all necessary sacrifices today to ensure his tomorrow'. Keen that Conrad should receive an education, he sold a desk of which Ewa had been particularly fond in order to raise enough money for textbooks. Despite such efforts, he was acutely aware of the emotional dangers attending his son's strange and miserable situation: 'Poor child', he wrote in a letter, 'he does not not know what a contemporary playmate is; he looks at the decrepitude of my sadness and who knows if that sight does not make his young heart wrinkled or his awakening soul grizzled.'

Apollo and Conrad immersed themselves in literature and learning in their lonely house on the edge of town. This provided not only a temporary distraction from grief, but vitally needed income from Apollo's translation work. The young boy later recalled clambering, still in mourning dress, onto his father's chair, to look at his translation of Shakespeare's *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. For his audacity he was teasingly made to read it aloud. Conrad was used to this practice: a few weeks earlier he had read from his father's translation of Victor Hugo's novel, *Toilers of the Sea*. Perhaps it was these words which first started to shape his dual destiny as seaman and writer.

*Opposite:*

*The photograph and message sent by Conrad to his grandmother in 1863.*

*Yale University Library*



Apollo, his own health now declining, confessed in a letter that 'I teach and demand too much and the little one, seeing nobody, burrows too deeply into books'. His son, precociously well read and now able to speak French, was therefore sent to stay on the Bobrowski estate. His return to Chernikhov in the autumn was short-lived. Conrad had begun to suffer from the vague illness which would recur throughout his childhood years and which seems to have been as much a nervous as a physical complaint. He journeyed to Kiev to see specialists and then, on their advice, went once again to Nowofastow. Despite the love poured upon him by his grandmother and uncle, and the opportunity to play with those his own age, he missed his father terribly.

Conrad and Apollo were reunited in the autumn of 1867 in Lwow, the capital of the Austrian part of Poland. Apollo had been permitted to travel there and the more liberal atmosphere went some way towards lightening his depression. Even so, he was remembered by an elderly neighbour as a 'man ruined both physically and mentally by suffering. Pale, dark-haired with a long beard, extremely wan and sad'. He remained fiercely protective of his son, in whom he increasingly saw resemblances to Ewa, and whom he described to a friend as 'the only strength that keeps me on this earth'.

Conrad was not allowed to attend the local school and sought companionship and adventure more in literature than in the things around him. The few friends he made were obliged to enter this escapist world. One recalled a 'strange boy' who

*'told us - his play mates - the most extraordinary stories. They were always of the sea and ships and far-away countries ... they were weird and fantastic almost beyond belief, but in the way he told them they seemed to us actual happenings. The power of weaving tales - tales that literally seemed to lie before one's eyes - was born in him.'*

Another female friend remembered a 'little tyrant' directing his own patriotic plays in which 'large cardboard boxes served as stage settings' and 'the breaking of chairs and stools' accompanied fierce battles between the insurgents and their Muscovite enemies. 'And as to loving', wrote Apollo, 'he loves those whom I point out to him as worthy'.

The eleven-year-old was once again uprooted when father and son moved to Cracow. Yet all Apollo's literary and political aspirations in that important city were cruelly undercut within months of their arrival; as his father's illness took hold, the oppressive atmosphere of the old house bore down upon the child with a dark gravity he would never forget:

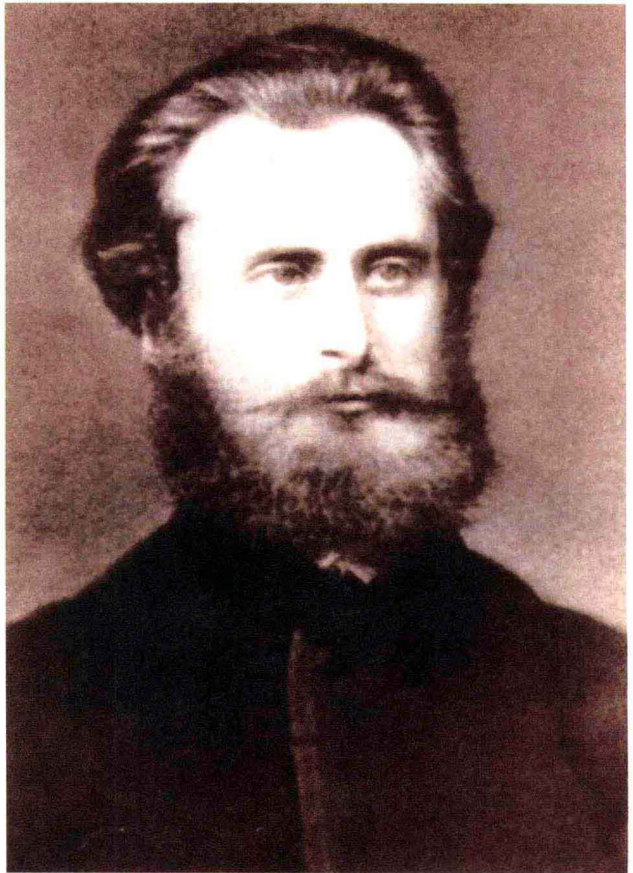
*'There, in a large drawing-room, panelled and bare, with heavy cornices and a lofty ceiling, in a little oasis of light made by two candles in a desert of dusk, I sat at a little table to worry and ink myself all over till the task of my homework was done ... finished, I would have nothing to do but sit and watch the awful stillness of the sick room flow out through the closed door and coldly enfold my scared heart.'*

*Tadeusz Bobrowski  
Conrad's uncle and  
guardian. Conrad  
remembered him as  
'the keeper of an  
inexhaustible treasure  
of clear thought and  
warm feeling.'*

*British Library*

Apollo died on 23 May 1869, leaving behind a child so hollowed out by grief he would later confess that 'I don't think I found a single tear to shed'.

It would take a strong and determined man to meet the challenge of Conrad's upbringing in the next few years. Such a man was Tadeusz Bobrowski, 'the keeper', in his nephew's later words, of 'an inexhaustible and noble treasure of clear thought and warm feeling'. Photographs of Bobrowski show a powerful and shrewd-looking man, unlikely to suffer fools gladly. A pragmatist, he had always been sceptical of his brother-in-law, regretting his generous allocation of Korzentiowski 'romanticism'. He was, however, sensitive to the great love Conrad had borne him and assured him in writing that 'you know that the whole affection we felt for your Parents we now bestow upon you'. The consoling letter goes





*'An air of slight  
haughtiness'*  
- *Conrad in 1873.*

*British Library*

on to address the boy's erratic education: 'not that which is easy and attractive must be the object of your studies but that which is useful, although sometimes difficult'. Bobrowski's worries ran deeper still. His concerns about Conrad's state of mind are revealed in his warning that he should strive to avoid 'giving way to feelings and thoughts which are not really proper to your age'.

Conrad remained in Cracow, where a place was found for him in a boarding house. His grandmother Teofila remained in the city to keep an eye on him until December, when Stefan Buszczyński, his father's literary executor, became his guardian. Conrad's education had been too patchy to allow him to enter normal schooling, and a twenty-three year old medical student, Adam Pulman, was appointed his private tutor. A brief summer holiday in the Carpathian Mountains did little to help his health, which remained frail, and in December 1870

Teofila returned, to remain with him for the next three years.

In the summer of 1873, Conrad went touring through Europe with Pulman. It was while walking in the lonely Swiss Furca Pass, the sun sinking in the sky that he apparently experienced something like an epiphany. Out of nowhere, a purposefully striding Englishman passed them on the track. Conrad later pondered whether the man was 'in the mystic ordering of common events the ambassador of my future, sent out to turn the scale at a critical moment on top of an Alpine pass'. He had been increasingly preoccupied with the idea of going to sea. This traveller's air of dauntless enthusiasm helped him to focus upon a course of action which must have seemed all the more appealing after his first view of salt water, from the shore of the Lido in Venice.

Bobrowski travelled from the Ukraine to Cracow to try to dissuade his nephew from his chosen course. Before taking over as head of his family he had shown

