



THE 2016 LOWRY LOUNGE

Book launch:
Malcolm Lowry's Poetics of Space
Ottawa University Press

Readings from
Mark Goodall and Ailsa Cox

Notes for *Malcolm Lowry's Poetics of Space* book launch: message from Lara Mainville, Director, University of Ottawa Press

Event: Launch, Lowry Lounge

Venue: The Bluecoat

Date: October 24, 2016

Good evening,

The University of Ottawa Press is delighted to be with you at the annual Lowry Lounges to launch the fourth and final instalment of our Malcolm Lowry studies: *Malcolm Lowry's Poetics of Space*, edited by Richard J. Lane (Vancouver Island University) and Miguel Mota (University of British Columbia).

This collection of exciting, new, and often controversial readings readdresses not only Lowry's master work, *Under the Volcano*, but also many of his other writings. What is interesting about the approach is that focusses on Lowry's *spatial dynamics*, from the psychogeography of the Letterist and the Situationist International, through musical forms (especially jazz), cinema, photography, and spatial-poetic writing, to the spaces of exception, bio-politics, and the creaturely.

In their introduction, Richard Lane and Miguel Mota ask: “How to situate Malcolm Lowry in space, then, given that “space” can mean so much to so many, produced as it is by a seemingly infinite web of relations – especially in an age when the virtual increasingly challenges the material as the place of the imagination?”

They go on to explain that: “The essays in this collection seek to define “space” in just such heterogeneous ways. The authors approach the concept of space in Lowry’s work and life from various theoretical and historical perspectives; yet always there is a common, shared sense of space, in this case perhaps best defined by Gaston Bachelard – that is, an understanding of space as an architecture of the imagination.”

Contributions in this volume are grouped in three sections:

- **Part One: Situating Under the Volcano**
- **Part Two: The Spatial Dynamics of Sight and Sound**
- **Part Three: Charting the Human Landscape**

In each section, critics engage in the notion of Lowry as a multimedia artist, who influenced and was deeply influenced by a broad range of modernist and early postmodernist aesthetic practices.

These are previously unpublished essays written by a team of 16 international Lowry scholars, both established and new.

They are...

- From Canada: Richard Lane, Miguel Mota, *Paul Tiessen*, *Ryan Rashotte*
- **From the US:** Charles Hoge, *W.M. Hagen*
- **From France:** Christine Vandamme, Mathieu Duplay, *Catherine Delesalle*, *Josiane Paccaud-Huguet*, *Annick Drosdal-Levillain*, *Pierre Schaeffer*, *Pascale Tollance*
- **From the UK:** Mark Goodall, Laurence Piercy, *Ailsa Cox*.

Some of you may be here this evening? Congratulations to all!

It is fitting that this book on Lowry and space is also accompanied by a documentary essay, *After Lowry*, which allows us to experience The Malcolm Lowry Walk, located in Cates Park in the village of Dollarton in the district of North Vancouver, British Columbia. This is where Lowry lived with his wife Margerie Bonner lived from 1940 to 1954 in a squatter’s shack on

the beach, and where he finished *Under the Volcano*. This documentary essay also explores the fictional landscape, a kind of sacred place to many.

Thanks to Dean Irvine, series editor of the Canadian Literature Collection and director of the Editing Modernism in Canada research cluster, for his vision in embracing this project.

Thanks, also, to the University of Ottawa Library for allowing us to offer this title as an open access title upon publication. This means that the PDF is openly accessible from the University of Ottawa Press website, the Library repository, and OA partners such as OAPEN and Open Edition.

Special thanks to Bryan Biggs and his team from the Bluecoat for hosting this event. And thank you to the Oxford Publicity Partnership—our European sales team, for their excellent work on our behalf.

Most importantly, our sincere thanks and congratulations to the editors.

The University of Ottawa Press is immensely proud of its Lowry cycle, a major contribution to international modernist scholarship.

Long live the Lowry Lounges! It seems you will have much to discuss over the next few years!

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Introduction

Richard J. Lane teaches English at Vancouver Island University, where he is the Principal Investigator of the Canada Foundation for Innovation MeTA Digital Humanities Lab, and the Director of the Literary Theory Research Group and Seminar for Advanced Studies in the Humanities

Miguel Mota, Associate Professor in the Department of English at the University of British Columbia

Part One: Situating *Under the Volcano*

Under the Volcano ... the Beach: Malcolm Lowry and the Situationists

Mark Goodall, Lecturer in media communications at the Bradford Media School, University of Bradford

Lowry, Sebald, and the Coincidental Landscape

Laurence Piercy has recently embarked on a PhD in English Literature at the University of Sheffield

Lowry and Jakobson: Spatial Pyrotechnics and Poetic Writing in *Under the Volcano*

Christine Vandamme, a lecturer at Stendhal University, Grenoble 3

Pathologies of Knowledge: David Markson, *Under the Volcano*, and the Experience of Thought

Mathieu Duplay Professor of American Literature at Paris Diderot — Paris 7 University in Paris, France

Phantom Priapusspuss: The Phantom Dog Tradition in *Under the Volcano*

Charles Hoge, teaches English literature, composition and children's literature classes at the Metropolitan State University of Denver

Part Two: The Spatial Dynamics of Sight and Sound

Spectatorial Bodies and the Everyday Spaces of Cinema

Paul Tiessen, Professor Emeritus of English and Film Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University

Projecting the *Volcano*: The Possibilities of Margerie Lowry's Film Proposal

W.M. Hagen, teaches courses in modern literature, film, and Western Civilization at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Oklahoma

Soundscapes in *Lunar Caustic*

Ailsa Cox, Professor of Short Fiction at Edge Hill University in the UK

Dwelling In-Between: Rituals and Jazz as Reconcilable Opposites in "The Forest Path to the Spring"

Catherine Delesalle, Assistant Professor at Jean Moulin University in Lyon, France

The Expressionist Gaze in the Psychic Space of *Under the Volcano*

Josiane Paccaud-Huguet, Professor of Modern English literature and Literary Theory at Université Lumière-Lyon 2, where she is also Dean of the Faculty of Languages

Part Three: Charting the Human Landscape

From Liverpool to Eridanus in the Twinkling of an Eye
Annick Drosdal-Levillain teaches English at the University of Strasbourg

Outgrowing the Alienating Inscape? The Voyage Out in *October Ferry to Gabriola*
Pierre Schaeffer, teaches English in the Faculty of Law at the University of Strasbourg

The Path to Translation: Ex-isting and Becoming in “Elephant and Colosseum”’s Divinely
Grotesque Comedy
Pascale Tollance, Professor of English at Université Lumière–Lyon 2 (France)

Placing Agency in the Cultural Landscapes of *La Mordida*
Ryan Rashotte, Ph.D. in English from the University of Guelph

The Poetics of Exposed, Irreparable Space in *Lunar Caustic*; or, Reading Lowry through
Agamben
Richard J. Lane

Coda

After Lowry: A Film Essay
Miguel Mota

List of Contributors

PRESS RELEASE

Malcolm Lowry's Poetics of Space to be launched at The Bluecoat's Lowry Lounge 2016

This year's celebration of the work of Malcolm Lowry at The Bluecoat, Liverpool, 'Lowry Lounge' October 22nd, includes the launch of Malcolm Lowry's *Poetics of Space* edited by Richard J. Lane and Miguel Mota.

The collection focuses on Lowry's spatial dynamics, from the psychogeography of the Letterist and the Situationist International, through musical forms (especially jazz), cinema, photography, and spatial poetic writing, to the spaces of exception, bio-politics, and the creaturely. It presents previously unpublished essays by both established and new international Lowry scholars, as well as innovative ways of conceiving of his aesthetic practice. In each of the book's three sections, critics engage in the notion of Lowry as a

multi-media artist who influenced and was deeply influenced by a broad range of modernist and early postmodernist aesthetic practices. Acutely aware of and engaged in the world of film, sensitive to the role of the graphical surface in advertising and propaganda, and deeply immersed in a vast range of literary traditions and the avant-garde, Lowry worked within an intertextual space that is also a mediascape, one which tends to transgress, or at least exceed, neatly controlled borders or aesthetic boundaries. These new approaches to Lowry's life and work, which make use of new and recent theoretical perspectives, will encourage fresh debate around Lowry's writing.

Malcolm Lowry was born in 1909 in New Brighton, Wirral. During the 1930s he lived in London, New York, Mexico and Los Angeles before moving to British Columbia in 1939. This move marked the start of a startlingly fertile period in Lowry's career as a 20th-century literary modernist. His masterpiece, *Under the Volcano* (1947), is one of the last great modernist novels. "Malcolm Lowry...the English expatriate and alcoholic, is the author of *Under the Volcano*, set during one day in Mexico and written over the course of 10 years in circumstances of sublime obscurity and hardship in a fisherman's shack without water or electricity on the Canadian Pacific coast. (Lowry had the least support - friends, family, serenity, health, money, jobs, work, pull, luck - of any writer I can think of)". Michael Hoffman, writing in *The Guardian* in 2007

Malcolm Lowry's Poetics of Space Edited by Richard J. Lane and Miguel Mota Paperback 978-0-7766-2340-5 £20.99

UK publication & publication event – 22nd October 2016

At the annual day-long 'Lowry Lounge' event, The Bluecoat, Liverpool

<http://www.thebluecoat.org.uk/events/view/events/3501>

Richard J. Lane directs the Seminar for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and the Literary Theory Research Group at Vancouver Island University, BC, where he is also the Principal Investigator of the MeTA Digital Humanities Lab, supported by the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the BC Knowledge Development Fund. Lane is also a director of Innovation Island Technology Association, as well as an Associated Researcher at The Electronic Textual Cultures Lab, at the University of Victoria.

Miguel Mota is Associate Professor of English at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. In addition to his work on Lowry, Mota has published in the areas of contemporary British literature and culture and on the relationship between literature and film, including articles on Jeanette Winterson, John King, Mike Leigh, Derek Jarman, and Peter Greenaway, among others.