

IN BALLAST TO THE WHITE SEA

A Scholarly Edition
A Novel by Malcolm Lowry

EDITED AND WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY PATRICK A. MCCARTHY
ANNOTATIONS BY CHRIS ACKERLEY
FOREWORD BY VIK DOYEN, MIGUEL MOTA AND PAUL TIESSEN





In Ballast to the White Sea

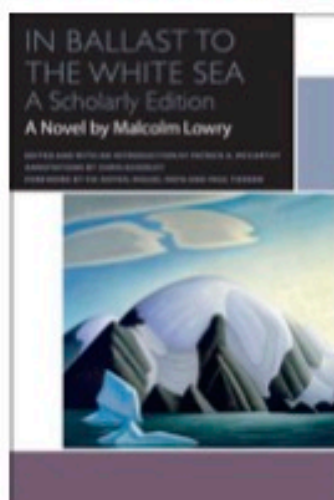
A Critical Edition

By Malcolm Lowry

Edited, with Introduction and Textual Notes, by Patrick A. McCarthy; Annotations by Chris Ackerley;

Foreword by Vik Doyen, Miguel Mota, and Paul Tiessen

This is the first edition of *In Ballast to the White Sea*, the autobiographical novel by Malcolm Lowry, known to most only through the highly romanticized story of its loss in a fire. In fact, the typescript itself has probably been read by at most a dozen people since Lowry scholars learned that it was deposited at the New York Public Library.



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Lowry's longest and most ambitious project of the mid-1930s was the autobiographical novel, *In Ballast to the White Sea*, about a Cambridge undergraduate who wants to be a novelist but has come to believe that both his book and, in a sense, his life have already been "written" by a Norwegian novelist.

Only decades after Lowry's death in 1957 did it become known that his first wife, Jan Gabriel, still had a typescript of the book. *In Ballast to the White Sea*—which Lowry once imagined would be the *Paradiso* of his trilogy, with *Under the Volcano* as the *Inferno* and *Swinging the Maelstrom* (or *Lunar Caustic*) as the *Purgatorio*—is one of Lowry's most intensely personal works.

The introduction places the narrative in relation to Lowry's sense of himself in the mid-1930s and draws parallels with his post-Volcano writings such as *Dark as the Grave Wherein My Friend Is Laid*, *La Mordida*, and *Through the Panama*. The text of the novel, as well as Chris Ackerley's extensive annotations provide crucial evidence about Lowry's life and art during the 14 years between the publication of *Ultramarine* (1933) and *Under the Volcano* (1947), the only novels he completed and published during his lifetime.

www.press.uottawa.ca/in-ballast-to-the-white-sea

Malcolm Lowry was born in 1909 in northwest England, near Liverpool. 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.

European launch publication event - 25th October 2014

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

www.thebluecoat.org.uk

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