

# JOSEPH CONRAD

## A BRIEF CHRONOLOGY

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Joseph Conrad's life may be seen as having several distinct stages: in Poland and in Russian exile before his father's death (1857–69); in Poland and the south of France under the care of his maternal uncle (1870–78); in the British merchant marine, mainly as junior officer sailing in the Far East (1879–early 1890s); after a transitional period (early 1890s), as writer of critical esteem (1895–1914); as acclaimed writer, though perhaps with his greatest work achieved (1914–24). After 1895 the history of his life is essentially the history of his works. Publication dates given below are those of the London editions.

1857 December 3      Józef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski  
(Nałęcz coat-of-arms) born in Berdyczów in the Ukraine to  
Apollo and Ewelina (or Ewa), née Bobrowska, Korzeniowski

1862 May      Korzeniowski, his wife, and son forced into  
exile in Russia

1865 April      Ewa Korzeniowska dies

1868      Korzeniowski permitted to leave Russia

1869 February      Korzeniowski and Conrad move to Cracow

May      Korzeniowski dies

1870      Conrad, under care of uncle Tadeusz Bobrowski, begins  
study with tutor, Adam Pulman

1873 May      Visits Switzerland and northern Italy; first view  
of the sea

1874 October      Takes position in Marseilles with Delestang et  
Fils, bankers and shippers

1875      Apprentice in *Mont-Blanc*

1876–7      In *Saint-Antoine*

1878 February / March      Attempts suicide

April	Leaves Marseilles in British steamer <i>Mavis</i>
June	Lands at Lowestoft, Suffolk; first time in England
July–September	Sails as ordinary seaman in <i>Skimmer of the Sea</i> (North Sea coastal waters of England)
1878–80	In <i>Duke of Sutherland, Europa</i>
1880	Meets G. F. W. Hope, Adolf Krieger
June	Passes examination for second mate
1880–81	Third mate in <i>Loch Etive</i>
1881–4	Second mate in <i>Palestine, Riversdale, Narcissus</i>
1884 December	Passes examination for first mate
1885–6	Second mate in <i>Tilkhurst</i>
1886	Submits perhaps his first story, ‘The Black Mate’, to <i>Tit-Bits</i> competition
August	Becomes a British subject
November	Passes examination for master; receives ‘Certificate of Competency as Master’
1886–7	Second mate in <i>Falconhurst</i>
1887–8	First mate in <i>Highland Forest</i> , in <i>Vidar</i>
1888–9	Captain of barque <i>Otago</i>
1889 Autumn	Begins <i>Almayer’s Folly</i> in London
1890 February–April	In Poland for first time since 1874
May–December	To Congo as second-in-command, then temporarily as captain, of <i>Roi des Belges</i>
1891	Manages warehouse of Barr, Moering, London
1891–3	First mate in <i>Torrens</i>
1893	Meets John Galsworthy, Edward L. Sanderson
Autumn	Visits Bobrowski in Polish Ukraine

November Signs on as second mate in *Adowa*,  
which never makes voyage

1894 January Ends career as seaman

February Bobrowski dies

Meets Edward Garnett, Jessie George

1895 April *Almayer's Folly*

1896 March *An Outcast of the Islands*. Marries Jessie  
George; honeymoon in Brittany  
Settles in Stanford-le-Hope, Essex

1897 Begins friendship with R. B. Cunninghame Graham;  
meets Henry James, Stephen Crane

December *The Nigger of the 'Narcissus'*

1898 Meets Ford Madox (Hueffer) Ford, H. G. Wells

January Alfred Borys Conrad born

April *Tales of Unrest*

October Moves to Pent Farm, Stanford, Nr Hythe, Kent,  
sub-let from Ford

1900 Begins association with J. B. Pinker

1900 October *Lord Jim*

1901 June *The Inheritors* (with Ford)

1902 November *Youth: A Narrative and Two Other  
Stories*

1903 April *Typhoon and Other Stories*

October *Romance* (with Ford)

1904 October *Nostramo*

1905 June *One Day More* staged in London

1906 Meets Arthur Marwood

August John Alexander Conrad born

October *The Mirror of the Sea*

1907 September      *The Secret Agent*. Moves to Someries,  
Luton, Bedfordshire

1908 August      *A Set of Six*

1909      Moves to Aldington, Kent

1910      Moves to Capel House, Orlestone, Kent

1911 October      *Under Western Eyes*

1912 January      *A Personal Record (Some Reminiscences)*

                         October      *'Twixt Land and Sea*

1913 September      *Chance*, with 'main' publication date of  
January 1914

1914 July–November      Visits Poland with family; delayed by  
outbreak of First World War; returns via Austria and Italy

1915 February      *Within the Tides*

                         September      *Victory*

1917 March      *The Shadow-Line*

1919 March      Moves to Spring Grove, near Wye, Kent

                         August      *The Arrow of Gold*

                         October      Moves to Oswalds, Bishopsbourne, near  
Canterbury, Kent

1920 June      *The Rescue*

1921      Collected editions begin publication in England  
(Heinemann) and America (Doubleday)

                         February      *Notes on Life and Letters*

1922 November      *The Secret Agent* staged in London

1923 May–June      Visits America, guest of F. N.  
Doubleday

                         December      *The Rover*

1924 May      Declines knighthood

                         August 3      Dies at Oswalds (Roman Catholic burial,  
Canterbury)

September	<i>The Nature of a Crime</i> (with Ford)
October	<i>The Shorter Tales</i>
1925 January	<i>Tales of Hearsay</i>
September	<i>Suspense</i>
1926 March	<i>Last Essays</i>
1928 June	<i>The Sisters</i>