

***The Joseph Conrad Society of America's Ian P. Watt Prize for Excellence  
in Conrad Scholarship 2011 awarded to Keith Carabine.***

For over twenty years, Keith Carabine has been a major force guiding and shaping Conrad studies worldwide. His monograph *The Life and the Art: A Study of Conrad's Under Western Eyes* (1996), a genetic study combining complex manuscript history with various biographical, historical, psychological, international, and cross-cultural vectors of analysis, is one of the select major critical texts that has brought the novel *Under Western Eyes* to the fore of Conrad studies in recent years. His introductions to and editions of, among many texts, the Oxford World's Classics edition of *Nostramo* and the Wordsworth edition of *Joseph Conrad: Selected Short Stories* are widely regarded as models of such scholarship, combining lucid and suggestive insight with judicious selection. Alongside several volumes he has co-edited in the *Conrad Eastern and Western Perspectives* series, Carabine's four-volume *Conrad: Critical Assessments* (Helm Information, Ltd. 1994) is a landmark, monumental, and permanently enduring resource of Conrad scholarship. His influential comparative studies include, "Where to?": A Comparison of Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment* and Conrad's *Under Western Eyes* (Carabine and Saunders, eds., *Inter-Relations: Conrad, James, Ford and Others*, East European Monographs, 2003) and "No action is simple': Betrayal and Confession in Conrad's *Under Western Eyes* and Ngugi's *A Grain of Wheat*" (Fincham and de Lange, with Krajka, eds., *Conrad at the Millenium: Modernism, Postmodernism, Postcolonialism*, East European Monographs, 2001). Yet his research, nothing short of foundational, is equally matched by the humane guidance and encouragement he has offered—and continues to offer—as a teacher, mentor, and galvanizing figure of the Conradian community. A professor at the University of Kent at Canterbury since 1967 (although he has also held teaching positions in Colorado, Amherst, and Jamaica), Carabine has taught ambitious and influential courses on the British and Russian modern novel, political fiction, and American literature of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and his seminars on Conrad, Faulkner, and Dostoevsky in particular have had influential effects internationally. Chairperson of the Joseph Conrad Society (U.K.) for many years, Carabine has been a key organizer and charismatic force behind Conrad meetings, scholarly projects, and international and multi-generational communities and solidarities worldwide, where he has used his energy and enthusiasm especially to encourage young scholars, fostering a new generation of humane and innovative Conrad scholarship. In short, he may perhaps best be described, to adjust slightly a phrase Conrad used to describe Polish Romantic writer Juliusz Slowacki, as "l'âme de toute la Conrادية." There is no sufficient thanking of Keith Carabine for the love he has put into Conrad scholarship and communities of Conradians generally—but this lifetime achievement award honors the sense of humor, the generosity of spirit, the intellectual rigor and tenacity of achievement, that leave us all very fortunate that he is "one of us."