

Answering the question of why the Yacht Club is named after Joseph Conrad, is rather simple, a more complex question still pertaining to the same topic is how Joseph Conrad inspired his readers enough to want to keep his name eternal, by identifying their yacht club with him. Indeed, there has been in the past numerous Polish sailors and writers, yet Joseph Conrad had a quality present in his life and work that was entirely his own. Joseph Conrad was a man of passion, a passion for the sea and a passion for his work, which he undoubtedly emulated throughout his life. His passion with the sea began as early as 17, and that marked the beginning of his passion for writing. Neither one can claim dominance upon the other for they are mutually dependent upon each other. It was Joseph Conrad's passion for writing coupled with his passion for the sea that made him one of the best English writers in history and the messages which he indirectly evoked made his work eternal, which is the basis for Joseph Conrad as the figure chosen by the founders of the yacht club to represent them.

There are many aspects of Joseph Conrad's actual life that make him a relevant figure for the club. He was a Polish immigrant, and he began learning to speak English at the age of twenty, as many of the founders did when they emigrated from Poland so many years ago. Despite his initial hardships, Joseph Conrad became a master of the English language, which is evident in his syntax and lengthy, descriptive sentences of minor details. Furthermore, the founders of the Joseph Conrad Yacht Club can associate with Joseph Conrad because they left Poland for similar political reasons. Joseph Conrad was born during a time when Poland was partitioned; specifically he was in the Russian sector. He left Poland and was forced to assimilate into a new society, which is a great task in itself, but what makes him a role model is the fact that his successes beyond his

native borders were so great. Similarly, the original founders of the Yacht Club, also had to leave Poland because Russia was making life miserable for their entire country. They came to the United States looking for a better life, when the opportunity was presented to them they utilized it to its full potential and now their names will always be synonymous with Joseph Conrad. Their ultimate uniting force, although, is their passion for the sea. Life at sea is rather lonely and isolated, sometimes for long periods, and this often gives sailors time to commiserate over their own lives and human psychology, which is one of the most important elements in Joseph Conrad's writing, although he is an author of fiction, his stories serve as a catalyst for his philosophies regarding life, knowledge, politics, imperialism, and countless others.

Joseph Conrad attained what other authors strive their entire lives to accomplish, to provide insight on the human condition. Although he wrote over 20 novels throughout his life, "Heart of Darkness" is undoubtedly one of his most famous. Although the plot is rather simple and straightforward, without many subplots, the messages he threads throughout it are very complex and profound. Humans seem rather simple on the outside, creatures living together on one planet, yet each one is unique regarding personalities and values. Morals and values are one of the strongest forces throughout the story and many of the characters have struggles within themselves, specifically Marlow. Before departing to Africa, Marlow criticizes his aunt for thinking the Company is interested in helping humanity, while he thinks of himself as more intellectual and claims the Company is only interested in profit. Yet, his own intentions are somewhat contradicted when he reveals that he is going to Africa mainly for an adventure, rather than as a capitalist venture. Conrad, by showing the level of hypocrisy that goes on in society, was not making a

statement about any sort of individual in general, but rather a broad statement about imperialism and how this act effects both the white men and the natives of the land.

The author appears to be a trailblazer for post-colonialism, and shows himself to be a quite profound philosopher. In a world of imperialism, white men take over lands, which are not theirs, and enslave people they claim to be savages. The Europeans are essentially stealing the land, which begs the question as to whom in the situation is really more savage? Furthermore, they claim these people to be savages, but while in Africa, the natives are forced to do hard labor, which would lead one to question as to how this hard labor was to make the natives more enlightened? This problem leads the readers to deliberate within themselves whether justice is more important in the process or in the outcome of a given situation. Conrad makes it obvious that Marlow after returning from Africa is disgusted by imperialism and how it corrupts society, yet in the end the narrator leads the reader to question whether the occurrence of going to Africa and experiencing imperialism can be justified by what Marlow has learned from the experience, and is this kind of pursuit of knowledge moral. Ethically, the story is a classic argument between the Deontologist and the Utilitarian, Conrad simply provides the argument, and leaves his readers to choose whether the act or the consequences are morally more significant.

Conrad in his plays shows himself to be a member of the newly emerging style of literature known as realism, while still keeping with some of the romantic ideas. While there is an exotic adventure in "Heart of Darkness" it is not a story with a clear hero with admirable qualities, Conrad takes on topics like death, suicide, and slavery. Marlow is a flawed character that is stuck in a struggle trying to find knowledge, and himself. Through him, Joseph Conrad shows his audience the difficulties of imperialism, the

essence of truth and how certain individuals are so fixated on their own paradigms of the world, they begin to live in their world so strongly, they die in the real world. Conrad shows the human flaws of greed for money and power and their ability to corrupt. All of these qualities in the writing of Joseph Conrad, his ability to describe humanity from the position of an omniscient observer, make his writing some of the most profound ever written.

Joseph Conrad was neither a philosopher, author, politician, nor sailor, he was all of them. One cannot focus on his ability of writing fantastic adventures while not equally paying credit to his insight on the inner and sometimes hidden motives of individuals. He is an ideal man to name a yacht club after because of his passion for the sea which he captures in his prolific writing, also Joseph Conrad did what he loved, his passions directed his life, and therefore he will remain forever in the pantheon of great authors...and sailors.

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