

press release

**THE APE OF SORROWS: From Stranger to Destroyer
The Inside Story of Humans**

Maurice Rowdon, philosopher, historian, writer

Published by iUniverse, 25 February 2010 £15.00 (\$23.95)

“The only measure we have of any animal’s intelligence is whether it leaves its habitat enhanced or depleted, and by this measure the human is the least intelligent of all creatures”

WHAT kind of species goes in for collective suicide?

Have our powers of self-invention to date been deeply misconceived?

Periods of decline usually contain the seeds of renewal.

What will it take for us to survive?

The Ape of Sorrows examines human behaviour through the simple but powerful rubric of animal intelligence, presenting a new view of humans as a magnificent, if misguided species which lost its way as it evolved beyond its niche to be niche-less, and separate, from all other non-linguistic animal life.

The Ape of Sorrows opens with a gripping retelling of the monkey brawl at London Zoo in the 1930s. It goes on to examine the history of our relationship with animals, and the development of our scientific, cultural and religious thought and practice through the millennia - the story that has brought us to this point of extreme instability in the 21st century.

Author, philosopher and historian, Maurice Rowdon brings a personal philosophical view to bear on our present state, offering an explanation as to how and why we are apparently so tragically committed to the destruction of this planet, our evolutionary mutations revealing a hard-pressed creature who seems to have had no other course.

The Ape of Sorrows is the culmination of 15 years of dedicated thought completed in the months before the visionary author’s death in February 2009.

BIOGRAPHY Maurice Rowdon (1922-2009) earned degrees in History and Philosophy at Oxford University and published twelve books on animal and human intelligence, travel, and war. A writer of fiction and non-fiction as well as a prolific playwright, he also taught his own breathing system, evolved from yoga practices, in California and Europe. In the latter years he lived with his wife, Dachiell, who survives him, in France and London.

Website: www.theapeofsorrows.com

- An examina of the human as he is, not as he thinks he is
- A Step by step guide to who you are not

the only means we have to judge of any

Once we see human performance

Contact @ theapeofSORROWS.com

Customer Profile:

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Authors and Other Royalty Participants

Not applicable.

Author Biography:

Maurice Rowdon took degrees in History and Philosophy at Oxford University and has published twelve books on animal/human intelligence and war. He writes plays, sometimes directing them, and for many years was a breath-guide in California, naming his system in 1981 'oxygenesis'. He and his wife reside mostly in London.

Information about your book:

Title: MAD APE

Subtitle: *The animal that said it wasn't.*

Author name as it should appear on book:

Maurice Rowdon.

QUOTE:

General quotes on various past work.

Italian Sketches: 'He can describe what he sees and hears with an unpretentious immediacy that brings a scene instantly and enduringly to life. He is full of variety...His style is extremely simple, short words and short sentences, yet every now and then he takes off on a purely literary flight of fancy that takes the reader with it in hilarious or tender acceptance.' (Times Literary Supplement).

'Extreme spiritual delicacy as well as physical sensibility...Artistically exhilarating. Often piercingly accurate.' (The Guardian).

'A loving sunlit account...like the chatter of asti spumante, effervescent and intoxicating out of a bottle.' (New Statesman)

'The delighted reader forgives him all his prejudices... He is endowed with a sharp reporter's eye.' (Sunday Times). 'It is a real pleasure to come across a quite original book.' (Observer).

A Roman Street: 'a first-class daily-life writer and all the Romanists will want to read him...every word of it rings true...reminds us of Lawrence' (Observer).

The Fall of Venice: 'Mr Rowdon is fortunate because after reading his enthralling essays one can still return to Venice and see so much that has survived the Fall.'

(Cyril Connolly, Sunday Times).

'Stylish and haunting' (New Yorker).

Hellebore The Clown: 'One of the truest novels I have ever read...an exquisite story' (Sunday Telegraph). 'A remarkably assured performance. Here is a fresh, vigorous and altogether unusual talent.' (John O' London's Weekly).

MAURICE ROWDON

THE FALL OF VENICE

'The new book is a bold and vigorous one, and though true to its title is written with such enthusiasm that one cannot help concluding that to fall is happier than to rise.'

NIGEL DENNIS *Sunday Telegraph*

'Mr Rowdon is fortunate, because after reading his enthralling essays one can still return to Venice and see so much that has survived the Fall.'

CYRIL CONNOLLY *Sunday Times*

'Stylish and haunting' *New Yorker*

A ROMAN STREET

'I am quite delighted with it. It catches the very voice and breath of Rome'

J. I. M. STEWART

'A first-class daily-life writer and all the Romanists will want to read him . . . Every word of it rings true . . . reminds us of Lawrence'

BERNARD WALL *The Observer*

ELKE & BELAM

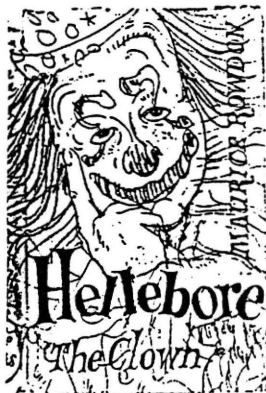
Highly entertaining and provocative, this is the incredible, true-life account of two astonishing dogs who communicate with humans, solve arithmetic problems faster than you can, and discuss topics ranging from the weather to religion.

Many other attempts of varying success have been and will be made to communicate with animals—dogs, horses, chimpanzees, dolphins. In *The Talking Dogs*, Maurice Rowdon has documented—painstakingly, impressively and convincingly—one such experiment, taking place right now, that has emphatically worked.

perimeter west

For all who care for literature that concerns itself with the things that really happen and really matter, *Perimeter West* is a novel to notice. It is original; its vision is simple and mature; and it speaks for a generation unacclimatised to peace and quiet.

"Profoundly serious" . . . "As an indictment of modern warfare *Of Sins and Winter* is extremely powerful . . . Here, it seems to me, is described the dilemma not only of war and peace, but that of this century", wrote the reviewer of Maurice Rowdon's last book in *Encounter*.



ITALIAN SKETCHES

'It is a real pleasure to come across a quite original book on Italy . . . I derived much pleasure from it.'

SIR HAROLD NICOLSON *The Observer*

'So often piercingly accurate and so far under the skin of everyday appearances that it is really a new appraisal almost of a new country'

ISABEL QUIGLEY *The Guardian*

'Within a couple of pages he has established a strong literary personality'

Punch

'A new writer of importance' - *Punch*

'Endowed with a sharp reporter's eye'

- *Sunday Times*

'He can describe what he sees and hears with an unpretentious immediacy that brings a scene instantly and enduringly to life' - *Times Literary Supplement*

'All books about Italy are frantic attempts to try and understand the nature of its fascination, and if Mr Rowdon's book (*Italian Sketches*) is one of the best attempts that has been made for many years, this is because he tries so deeply to understand and must excite the sympathy of anyone else who has tried to do so' - *Sunday Telegraph*

'A loving, sunlit account . . . something of Lawrence's travel books, something of Durrell's island books . . . like the chatter of an opera recitative, like *asti spumante* gurgling effervescent and intoxicating out of a bottle' - *New Statesman*

THE COMPANION GUIDE TO UMBRIA

'Mr Rowdon has written an exceptionally well-informed and entertaining guide. This is an outstanding travel book.'

Eastern Daily Press

Clowns, some say, are a dying race. But if ever a sad day comes when The Great Clowns are no more, and people who have never seen them wonder what they were like, we could confidently recommend them to read this remarkable book.

The description of this performance, with all its tension, near-tragedy, humour and triumphant virtuosity, is a tour-de-force which marks out Mr. Rowdon as a writer of the highest promise.