

THE 2022 LOWRY LOUNGE



29th October 2022

Preamble

- Once again a group of Firminists gathered at the Bluecoat on the nearest Saturday to *The Day of the Dead*—as they have every year since 2009#, the 100th anniversary of Malcolm Lowry's birth
- Looking beyond *Under the Volcano* this year's session focused on his later writings and his clear appreciation of the importance of the landscape and natural beauty he identified with at Dollarton and on a visit to the Lake District shortly before his death (both in his short stories or his last notebook##) and compared that with his early influences on the Isle of Man, where his family holidayed, and the ongoing work being done today to protect the fragile environment both on the island and significantly in it's surrounding waters
- Continuing the international theme of the meeting, there was a reading, via zoom, by Alberto Rebollo from his unpublished novel which contains some Lowryesque characters
- The prime record of the day has been a Bluecoat sound recording what follows here are some images (taken in the small amount of artificial light available) of the Firminists doing what they do so well and feel so passionate about, then some images of New Brighton on 30th October 2022 and, finally from the **postlow photography** digital archive, images of a very special part of the Lake District

Agenda and order of images:

1. Setting the scene – readings from short stories###
2. Cian Quayle highlights links with IoM and Dollarton
3. Alan Dunn sharing work to protect the Isle of Man's (IoM's) fragile marine/coastal environment
4. The Art Doctors teaching semaphore
5. Helen Tookey sharing what it meant to her being able to read his final notes on his Lake District travels
6. Alberto Rebollo in full flow
7. Mary Morgans running a Q&A session with Colin Dilnot and Michael Romer from questions extracted from *Under (a model of) the Volcano*
8. The Toast and other Bits and Pieces at the Bluecoat

After the Event

9. Imagined linkage of Lowry's one time childhood home in North Drive, New Brighton to the views of Lake Ennerdale and its surrounding fells

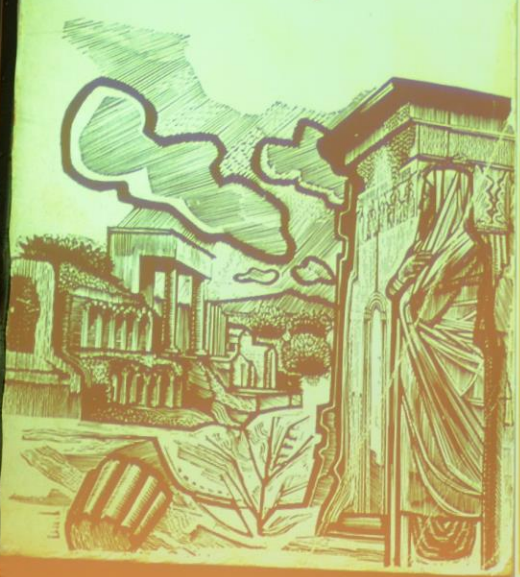
apart from 2020 when covid restrictions meant a F2F meeting was not possible

which remains with his other papers in archives of the University of British Columbia

no images taken of the four Firminists reading excerpts selected by Helen Tookey and MC'd by Bryan Biggs

1.1 Relationship of music with Hear Us
O Lord from thy Dwelling Place

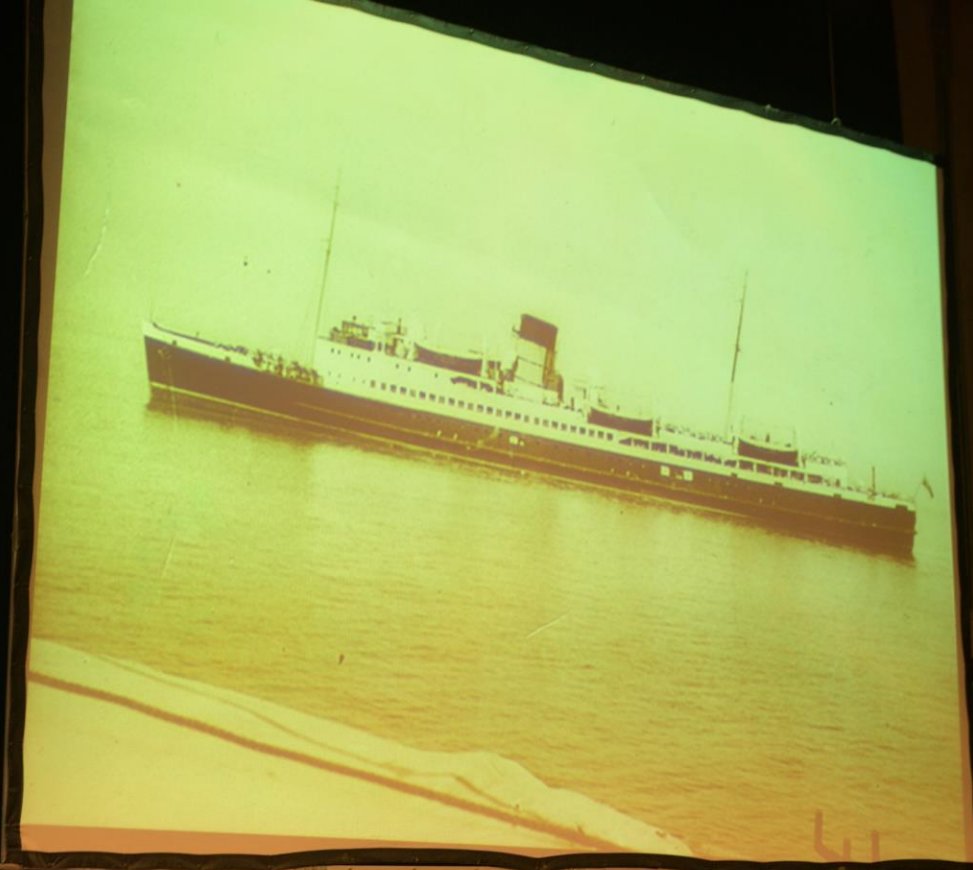
O Lord
from heaven
thy dwelling place
Malcolm Lowry



1. Hear us, O Lord, from Heaven, thy dwelling place
2. Thou God, do not let the enemy of me or
the Church of God, in whom we trust, and
in whom we have our life and hope, in the
valley with us. There he who is not the light
of glory in this sun, our little brother in faith
Come down, O Lord, that we may see thy face
Send us thy help, O Lord, our God.



2.2 – Ferry run by the IoM Steam
Packet Company in transit
between IoM and Liverpool's
Pier Head



2.3 – Russell, Stuart, Wilfrid, Malcolm
and Nanny on IOM summer holiday



2.4 – Chris Killip's *Castletown*

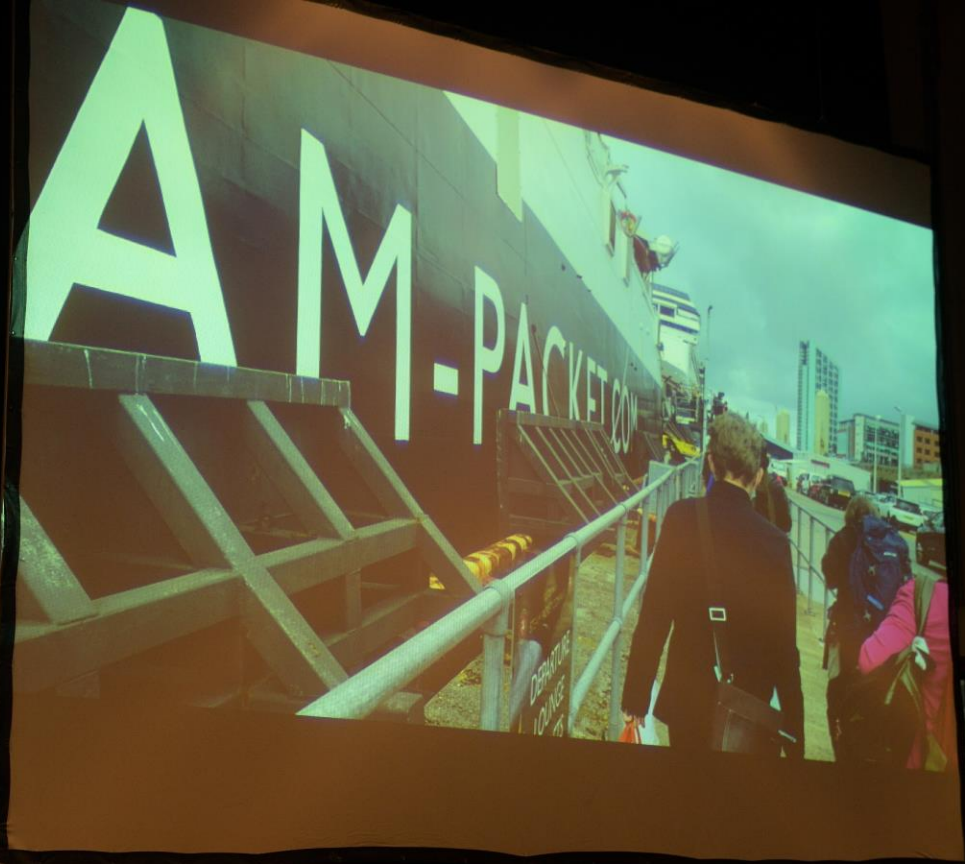


2.5 - Across the sound at Dollarton

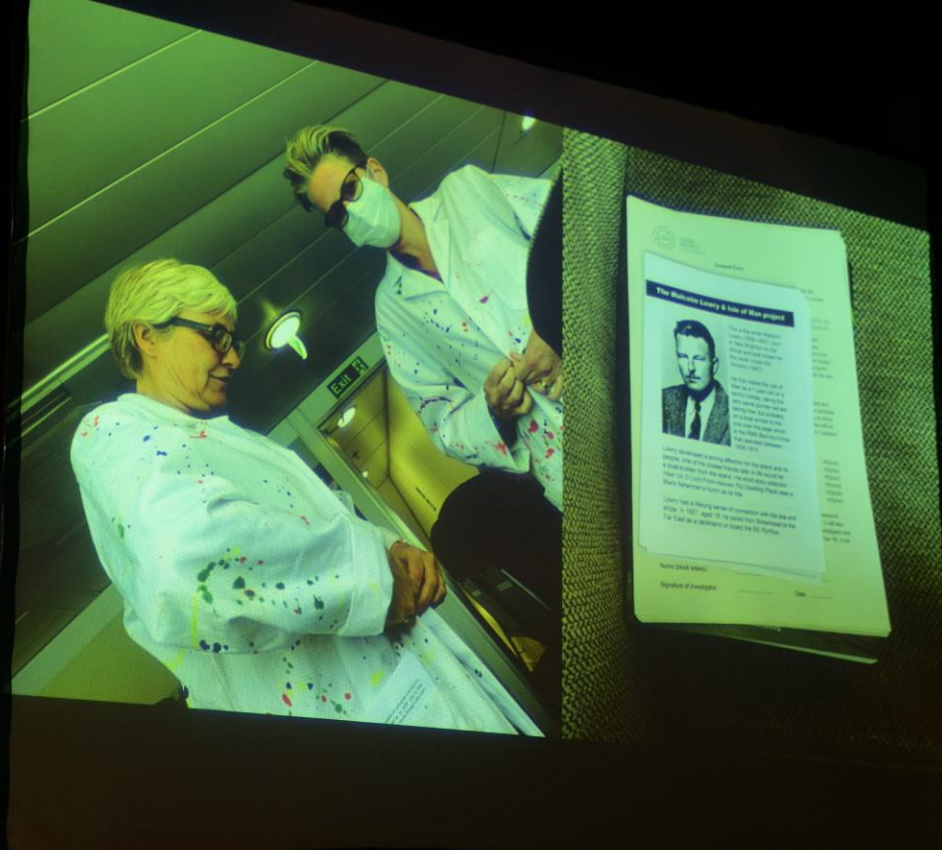


2.6 Lowrys working at Dollarton





3.2 – Art Doctors getting to grips with Lowry's writing



3.3 Director of Cultural Legacies reveals his creative side on smooth crossing across the Irish Sea



3.4 – Beach buddies taking a rest at Peel



3.5 – Roger reading poem
written on the trip



3.6 - With the Bee Gees



*Hear Us O Lord
From Heaven
Thy Dwelling Place*



A two-year AHRC-funded network exploring some writings of Wirral-born Malcolm Lowry (1909-1957) in relation to increased care for our oceans through a series of podcasts recorded during sailings between Liverpool and Isle of Man, 2021-22.

4.1 - Art Doctors all at sea



4.2 Art Doctor testing the assembled Firminists - 1



4.3 Art Doctor testing the assembled Firminists - 2



4.4 Follow the groove




4.5 Pulling together the semaphore answers



4.6 Contemplation and smiles

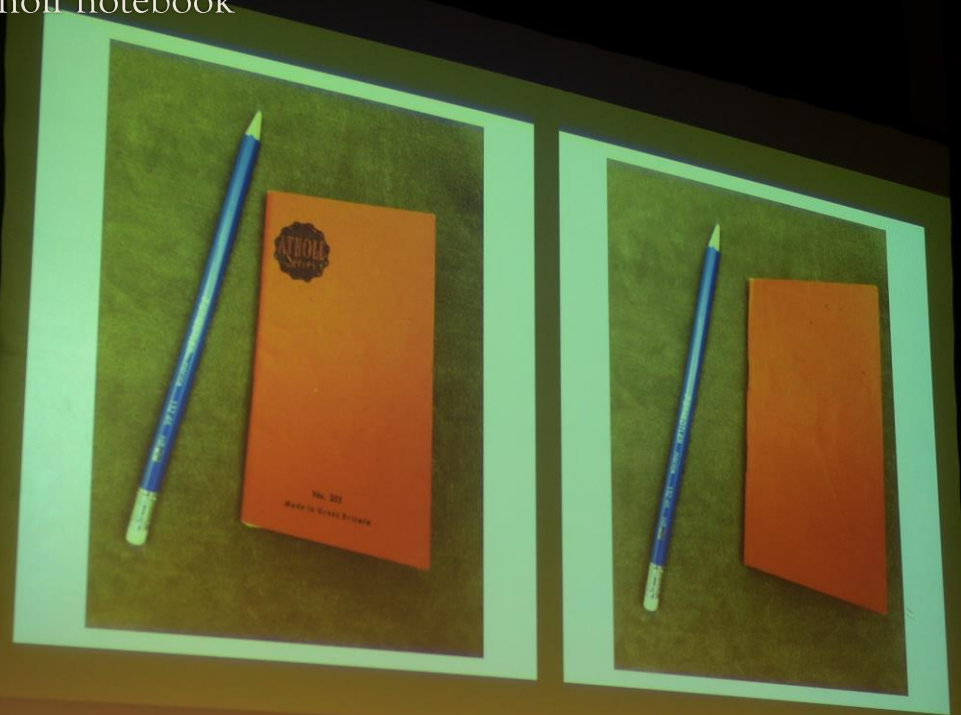


5.1 – Conclusion of the never ending journey

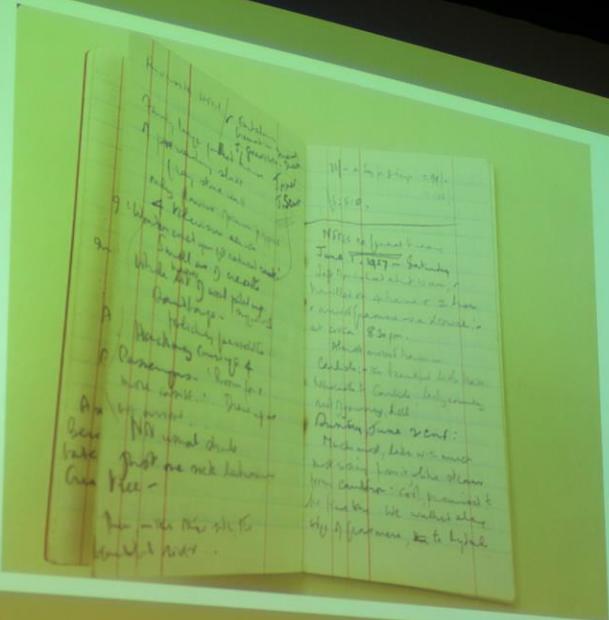


Special Reality
Malcolm Lowry's 'Last Notebook'

5.2 - 65-year-old 'back to front' Atholl notebook



5.3 - Lowry's last writings



The projection shows two pages of handwritten notes on lined paper. The left page contains several paragraphs of text, some starting with 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D', 'E', 'F', 'G', 'H', 'I', 'J', 'K', 'L', 'M', 'N', 'O', 'P', 'Q', 'R', 'S', 'T', 'U', 'V', 'W', 'X', 'Y', 'Z'. The right page contains a date '1947' and several paragraphs of text, including 'The first time I saw...', 'The first time I saw...', 'The first time I saw...', 'The first time I saw...', 'The first time I saw...'. The handwriting is in cursive and appears to be from the mid-20th century.

A woman with short hair and glasses, wearing a red and black plaid shirt and dark pants, stands at a podium. She is looking down at a laptop and some papers on the podium. A microphone is positioned in front of her. The podium is dark wood and has a laptop on it. The background is a large projection screen showing handwritten notes.



Mexican Lowry scholar **Alberto Rebollo** is a member of the *Fundación Malcolm Lowry* in Cuernavaca, the setting for *Under the Volcano* that also hosts the annual Malcolm Lowry Colloquium

Here, he is in conversation with Bryan Biggs and Helen Tookey.

5.2 - Pause in reading English translation made specifically for 29 October



b
Bluecoat
Oct, 2022



7.2 Amazing what creative artist Mary Morgans can do with a lampshade



8.1 Traditional toast with mezcal



8.2 - A selection from the Bluecoat's library





8.4 - End of the day at the Bluecoat



9.1 Lowry family home in 1910s in North Dr, New Brighton .. which happens to be adjacent to Ennerdale Rd



NORTH DRIVE

WIRRAL
ENNERDALE
ROAD
CH45

9.2 – Isle of Man rises above inverted clouds across the Solway from *Steeple* on southern Ennerdale Fells



9.3 – Looking south towards Morecambe Bay and ultimately Liverpool from *Haycock's* southern flank



9.4 Autumnal colours beside Lake Ennerdale .. reminiscent of Dollarton?



9.5 Fells surrounding Lake Ennerdale in the late Spring



Acknowledgements

- Readings, not imaged, in Section 1 selected by Helen Tookey
- Source material in section 2 – collated by Cian Quayle from his images of travelling to the Isle of Man and Dollarton, the Manx archive, Lowry archive (2.3 and 2.5) and renowned Manx photographer Chris Killip (image 2.4) whose work can be explored further in *Isle of Man: A Book About the Manx* (1980) published by the Arts Council of Great Britain were made between 1970 - 73 and at the *Photographers Gallery* online at [About Us](#) | [Photography Journal](#) | [Awards](#) | [Commissions](#) | [1854 Media](#)
- Source material in section 3 – collated by Alan Dunn from his images of trips to the Isle of Man during covid restrictions in 2021 and later in 2022; the sketches are by Bryan Biggs and were made accompanying Alan
- The Art Doctors are Alison McIntyre, Liz Sterling (IoM images only) and in the Bluecoat on 29th Oct Frankie Mazzotta
- Source material in section 5 – collated by Helen Tookey from her images taken in Vancouver in 2022
- All photographs taken in the deck by Jeremy Lowry with the New Brighton images being taken on 30th October 2022 and the Ennerdale images taken 2015-2016 whilst living in nearby Whitehaven – perhaps fulfilling Lowry’s wish to live in or near the Lake District
- Editorial work undertaken by Bryan Biggs on this piece
- The thoroughly enjoyable and insightful day organized as usual by Bryan Biggs and his team at the Bluecoat with Helen Tookey and Alan Dunn