Thomas had cycled over from his home in Kent to spend a couple of days with the Conrads while awaiting the birth of his third child.

Thomas enlisted in 1915, and visited Conrad for the last time on 10 December 1916. He was killed four months later, on 9 April 1917, at Arras, France.

1. Sir Richard Burton (1821–90), English explorer who discovered Lake Tanganyika. He also produced the first unabridged translation of *The Thousand Nights and a Night*.

2. For details of Ford Madox Ford (Hueffer), see p. 106.

Conrad and Lawrence of Arabia*

T. E. LAWRENCE

I shall look forward to the promised photograph of the MUG. Likeness – yes, it's desirable in a named ship; but I hope you have kept scale and broad treatment, too. A figurehead should grow clearly out of the vessel's lines. How fortunate that Conrad had that streamlined face . . . or hair on his face, anyhow. What I shall always remember is his lame walk, with the stick to help him, and that sudden upturning of the lined face, with its eager eyes under their membrane of eyelid. They drooped over the eye-socket and the sun shone red through them, as we walked up and down the garden. Put the cameraman in a boat under the forefoot, and have a fish's-eye view of the head, please!

NOTE

Thomas Edward Lawrence (1888–1935), 'Lawrence of Arabia', met Conrad at the home of Hugh Walpole in July 1920. In 1919–21, Lawrence was a research fellow at All Souls College, Oxford, and was engaged in re-writing his *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, published posthumously in 1935. In 1922 he enlisted in the ranks of the RAF under the name of J. H. Ross in order to escape publicity.

In his letter (dated 26 January 1935) to Bruce Rogers, the American designer, Lawrence is discussing the figurehead of the *Conrad*, a sailing frigate owned by Rogers's friend, Alan Villiers.

* From *The Letters of T. E. Lawrence*, ed. David Garnett (London: Cape, 1938) p. 843.