

SAFE PASSAGE

Travels through the Twentieth Century

Donald MacKay

This is the story of one veteran writer's adventures in a tumultuous century that witnessed the world's greatest devastation as well as its greatest prosperity.

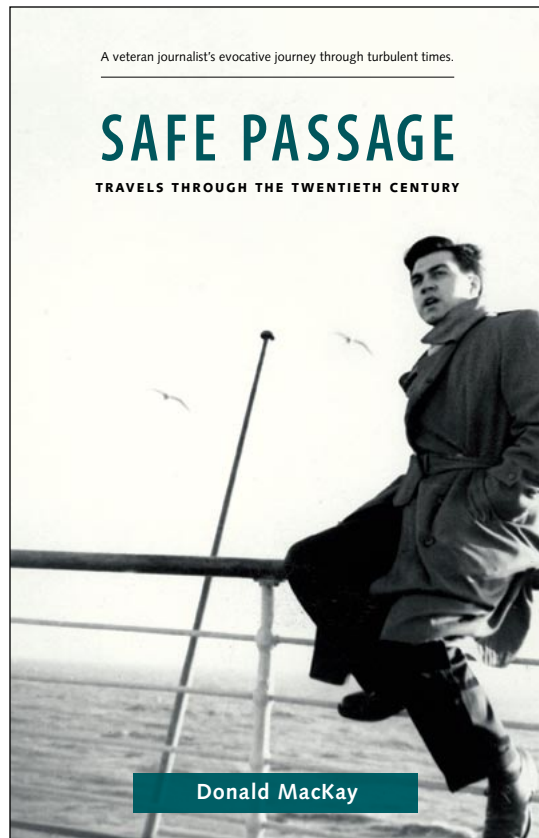
Bitten by the urge for travel and adventure, Donald MacKay went to sea as an apprentice sailor on an oil tanker in the final months of the Second World War. After the war, he became a reporter in Canada and then a foreign correspondent based in Europe during twenty-five years of the Cold War. He covered the birth of NATO, the tragedy of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, the building of the infamous Berlin Wall, the May 1968 Paris student insurrection, and assignments in China during the Cultural Revolution and in Africa and India when colonial empires were falling apart. He reported on the last years of Sir Winston Churchill, interviewed Lord Bertrand Russell when the ban-the-bomb philosopher was imprisoned for civil disobedience, and met Dr. Albert Schweitzer on the revered missionary's journey from Africa to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

Born on the eve of the Great Depression, MacKay tells of growing up in a world before TV and globalization, when automobiles and air travel were a novelty and young people like himself suffered from diseases that have since been conquered. He recalls what it was like to work as a reporter across Canada in the years after the war and in Montreal during the FLQ crisis.

Since retiring from journalism in 1975, Donald MacKay has written ten books of Canadian social and industrial history. Having spent most of the 1990s in a farmhouse in rural southern Ireland, he has now come to rest with his wife, Barbara, in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, not far from where he grew up in sight of Cape Blomidon.

Donald MacKay was born in 1925 and brought up in Windsor, Nova Scotia, and Halifax. His sixty-year career as reporter, broadcaster and historian has taken him to every Canadian province and a dozen countries in Europe, Africa and Asia. Two of his ten books, *The Lumberjacks* and *Scotland Farewell*, were short-listed for the Governor General's Award for Non-fiction. *Flight from Famine* won the Quebec QSPELL Prize for Non-fiction in 1991.

As a reporter he worked for the Canadian Press and was managing director for Canada of the now-defunct American news agency United Press International. From London he broadcast daily to the United States for several years, and was news director of Radio Free Europe in Munich, broadcasting to Eastern Europe. He is married to Barbara, a retired Concordia University professor, and is the father of two daughters who live in England and Spain.



Books by Donald MacKay

The Lumberjacks (1978)

Anticosti: The Untamed Island (1979)

Scotland Farewell: The People of the Hector (1980)

Empire of Wood: The MacMillan Bloedel Story (1982)

Heritage Lost: The Crisis in Canada's Forests (1983)

The Asian Dream: The Pacific Rim and Canada's National Railway (1986)

The Square Mile: Merchant Princes of Montreal (1987)

Flight from Famine: The Coming of the Irish to Canada (1990)

The People's Railway: A History of Canadian National (1992)

Train Country: An Illustrated History of Canadian National Railways (with Lorne Perry) (1993)

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