## R.C. Hutchinson

# R.C. Hutchinson The Man and his Writing

Barry Webb



The Lutterworth Press

#### THE LUTTERWORTH PRESS

P.O. Box 60 Cambridge CB1 2NT United Kingdom

www.lutterworth.com.
publishing@lutterworth.com

Hardback ISBN: 978 0 7188 9800 7 Paperback ISBN: 978 0 7188 9799 4 PDF ISBN: 978 0 7188 9802 1 ePub ISBN: 978 0 7188 9801 4

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data A record is available from the British Library

First published by The Lutterworth Press, 2024

Copyright © Barry Webb, 2024

All rights reserved. No part of this edition may be reproduced, stored electronically or in any retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior written permission from the Publisher (permissions@lutterworth.com).

This book is dedicated to the memory of the late Sir Rupert Hart-Davis and the late Peter Way, both of whom introduced me to the works of R.C.H. 'R.C. Hutchinson is not the first great writer who has had to wait for posthumous recognition and continued readership, and both, I am convinced, will come sooner or later...Genius is impossible to define, and the word has become tarnished by exposure, but I believe R.C. Hutchinson had it.'

#### - Sir Rupert Hart-Davis

'When someone – as someone surely will – comes to write about the total oeuvre of R.C. Hutchinson he will not find it easy to categorize the novels: each is different from its predecessors, all remain uninfluenced by contemporary fashion in fiction. His latest (Image of My Father) would break away from any pattern a critic was trying to impose... It is a quite remarkable novel.'

- Daniel George, The Bookman, September 1961

### Contents

Acknowledgements	X
Copyright Acknowledgements	xiii
Prologue	1
1. Monkton Combe and Childhood	3
2. Oxford, Norwich, and the First Novel	20
3. Four Early Novels	34
4. The Writer at his Desk	60
5. R.C.H. and War	80
6. R.C.H. and Medicine	112
7. R.C.H. and Religion	128
8. Two Further Novels	133
9. Drama and Short Stories	142
10. Last Days and Rising	147
Epilogue	156
Select Bibliography	159
Index	164