

MODERN SPIRITUAL MASTERS SERIES

CARYLL
HOUSELANDER

Essential Writings



Selected with Commentary by
WENDY M. WRIGHT

ORBIS  BOOKS
Maryknoll, New York 10545

Founded in 1970, Orbis Books endeavors to publish works that enlighten the mind, nourish the spirit, and challenge the conscience. The publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of the Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. The books published reflect the views of their authors and do not represent the official position of the Maryknoll Society. To learn more about Maryknoll and Orbis Books, please visit our website at www.maryknoll.org.

Copyright © 2005 by Wendy M. Wright.

Published by Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0308.

All rights reserved.

Grateful acknowledgment is made to the following for permission to reprint selections from the works of Caryl Houselander: Sheed & Ward, an imprint of Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., for excerpts from *The Comforting of Christ*, *Inside the Ark*, *The Passion of the Infant Christ*, *The Risen Christ*, *A Rocking Horse Catholic*, *The Way of the Cross*, *The Flowering Tree* and *This War Is the Passion* by Caryl Houselander, and from *That Divine Eccentric* by Maisie Ward; the Archives of the University of Notre Dame for illustrations by Caryl Houselander from the Sheed and Ward Family Papers; Marie Anne Mayeski, for permission to use photographs of Caryl Houselander from the collection of the late Teresa Phillips; Ave Maria Press for excerpts from *The Reed of God*; Continuum Press International for excerpts from *The Dry Wood*, *Guilt*, and *The Letters of Caryl Houselander*. Every effort has been made to identify the owner of each selection in this anthology and to obtain permission from the copyright holder.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Queries regarding rights and permissions should be addressed to:
Orbis Books, P.O. Box 308, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0308.

Manufactured in the United States of America.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Houselander, Caryl.

[Selections. 2005]

Caryl Houselander : essential writings / selected with commentary by
Wendy M. Wright.

p. cm. — (Modern spiritual masters series)

Includes bibliographical references (p.).

ISBN-13: 978-1-57075-603-0 (pbk.)

1. Christian life—Catholic authors. I. Wright, Wendy M. II. Title.

III. Series.

BX2350.3.H68 2005

248.4'82—dc22

2005009194

Contents

Sources	7
Acknowledgments	9
Introduction	11
1. THE “CHRISTING OF THE WORLD”	15
2. MYSTICAL BODY	26
3. RULES FOR EVERYDAY	40
4. WORK SHOULD BE AN ACT OF CREATIVE LOVE	52
5. LIFE IN WHICH ONE’S OWN LIFE WILL GROW AND FLOWER	66
6. ALLOWED TO TASTE THE RIM OF CHRIST’S CUP	73
7. A SECRET FORM OF VIRGIN EMPTINESS	99
8. WE ARE ALL PART OF A VAST RHYTHM	114
9. A UNITY OF DEEP AND TENDER AND DETAILED LOVE	129
10. THE POWER TO HEAL	149
11. BETHLEHEMS IN US	179
12. THE POETRY OF CHRIST	189
Notes	217