



James Courage

**Flower's House
1916–1921**

**College No.
2920**

James Francis Courage

James Courage was a novelist, short story writer, poet, and bookseller, whose literary career was largely unrecognised in his day. Today, he is credited with being a pioneer of New Zealand gay fiction.

The first of five children, James was born in 1903 on Seadown sheep station, near Amberley. He boarded in Flower's House from 1916–1921 and excelled in Drama. When he left school, he sailed for England where he studied at Oxford University. He returned home just once, in 1933, spending 18 months at Seadown and at his grandmother's home at Mt Somers. After he left in 1935, James never saw New Zealand again. However, he retained an intellectual and emotional connection to his homeland, with many of his eight books featuring a strong Canterbury flavour, honing in on human complexities and those between people and landscape.

James Courage's name is recorded on a plaque on the footpath outside the College gates as part of the Christchurch Writers' Trail. When he died in 1963, at age 60, his ashes were scattered at the mouth of the Waipara River near Amberley.



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