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### About the Author

Edward Chaney is the Professor of Decorative and Fine Arts at Southampton Solent University, Visiting Professor at the New College of the Humanities and Braudel Fellow at the European University Institute, Florence. He was an art student when he met Gerald Edwards but went on to do a PhD at the Warburg Institute and taught at Pisa University for six years.



'... we always thought of him as  
"our genius friend".'

J.S. Collis

*The Spectator* (1982)

Since its publication in 1981, *The Book of Ebenezer Le Page* has been recognised as the greatest work of literature by a native Guernseyman, and indeed one of the greatest novels of the twentieth century.

Edward Chaney befriended its reclusive author, Gerald Edwards, encouraged him to finish the novel and had it published after he bequeathed him the manuscript. This two-part biography reconstructs Gerald's Guernsey origins and his status as the 'genius friend' of a group of writers who contributed to Middleton Murry's *Adelphi* in the 1920s. It then documents his descent into obscurity in the 1940s. The second part relates how Chaney met Edwards in Dorset in 1972 and how the novel eventually came to be published and was enthusiastically received.

'[Professor Chaney has] written a work of considerable research and scholarship ... This is a remarkable book which sets out to show us that the half-forgotten Gerald Edwards, author of a single *magnum opus*, should (like Lampedusa) be acknowledged as one of the great novelists of the twentieth century. Writing with skill and conviction, calling on some impressive witnesses (in particular John Stewart Collis) to give evidence, Chaney makes a powerful case that will surprise and impress readers today. *Sir Michael Holroyd*