



# Characters and Plots in D'Arcy McNickle's Fiction

*Robert L. Gale*

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D'Arcy McNickle (1904-1977), one of the most important, most accomplished Native Americans who ever lived, was pro-Indian activist, government employee, self-taught anthropologist, educator, and writer. Part Cree, part French, and part Irish, McNickle may ultimately be most fondly remembered for his three novels and sixteen short stories. *The Surrounded* dramatizes the plight of seemingly hopeless Native Americans encircled by ever-encroaching white civilization. *Runner in the Sun* presents the heroic quest of a young adult in pre-Columbian America. The hauntingly titled *Wind from an Enemy Sky* opposes Indians, themselves split, against white aggressors whose atmosphere is toxic. McNickle casts his intriguingly varied short stories in the West, in eastern cities, and in Paris, all of which he knew well. *Characters & Plots in D'Arcy McNickle's Fiction* is restricted to a detailed treatment of McNickle's novels and stories, their characters and plots, and pertinent critical insights on them and includes a Chronology of McNickle's phenomenal life, a Bibliography demonstrating the range of scholarship about him, and an Index. Iowa-born Robert Lee Gale has degrees from Dartmouth College and Columbia University, was an officer during World War II in the Counter Intelligence Corps of the U.S. Army Air Corps in England, France, North Africa, and Italy. He taught forty years at American and foreign universities and has published widely, including more than twenty reference books like this one on McNickle, and including three published by Word Association Publishers, on western writers Walter Van Tilburg Clark, Norman Maclean, and James Welch. Retired from the University of Pittsburgh, Gale now lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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