New World Soundings
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The University of Ontarisota Press is proud to make available for the first time in print McLuhanaima, famed throughout the literary and scholarly worlds as the Master Myth of the Western hemisphere. The vibrant interest of this masterpiece resides not so much in its historiographical verisimilitude as in its compelling delineation of the primitive, mythopoetic mind (McLuhanaíma) confronting an advanced civilization (Land of the Parrots). The Master Myth has been known heretofore only in truncated, deformed, and derivative versions. Now we present the carefully authenticated original of this incomparable saga.

Another stunning contribution of the Master Myth is purely linguistic. In an attempt to render his prose totally impenetrable, the anonymous author spent his lifetime attending international scientific gatherings. Refusing to adopt the quaint regionalisms of any single academic group—such as the International Congress of Americanists, the Brazilian Society for the Progress of the Sciences, or the Latin American Studies Association—he made a creative composite of their speechways, choosing only those lexical items that are bereft of any recognizable denotation. The result is a "modern" scholarly monograph composed centuries before its time.

This text of McLuhanaíma has been edited and annotated by three Yan-kanadian "Brazilianists": M. Cavalcade Prowess, Tony Frank, and Harry O'Fields. These three young researchers never found employment in universities and have been graduate students for sixty-three years, surviving as research assistants. It was inevitable that in so long a time they would one day, in purely aleatory fashion, stumble on something interesting. This happened in the basement of the Library of Congress (before the Library was converted into a discothèque and massage parlor for the U.S. Senate), where they came across an antique tape recorder. When they inserted a new battery, the ancient apparatus shivered and rumbled and then, in a squeaky, eerie voice, made audible the tale that is about to grip your attention. Because the anonymous author was illiterate (analfabeto), his tape was never registered in the alphabetical card catalogue of the Library of Congress. Only Divine Guidance, or perhaps a Divine Comedy, led our three young scholars to the source.

Publication of this classic would have been impossible without the generous cooperation of the SantaCasaFord. The original price of the volume was so astronomical that not even the University of Texas Library could have afforded one. By making available an eight-digit subsidy, the
SantaCasa allowed us to remainder the book before publication at three cents a copy. The tome you hold in your hands is therefore a publishing landmark as well as a cultural one.

Finally, I must express tender gratitude to my water-polo companion and somewhat promiscuous wife, Brünnhilde, who spilled boiling Wesson Oil on the first version of this foreword, delaying publication of the manuscript for nineteen strife-torn years.

James Watson Webb II
Director
Ontarisota University Press