

DANIEL DEFOE



BIOGRAPHY



Daniel Defoe (nee Daniel Foe) was born around 1659-1660 in Cripplegate, which is near London. He was a prominent English writer, essayist, pamphleteer, trader and spy. He became well-known after his novel "Robinson Crusoe". He was also the founder of economic journalism in the UK. His father was a tradesman, but he wanted his son to become a pastor. Thus, he sent Daniel to the seminary in Newington Green. The boy studied classical literature, as well as Latin and Greek there. However, he drew a completely different path - business and trade.

EDUCATION

- Defoe was educated at the Rev. James Fisher's boarding school in Pixham Lane in Dorking, Surrey. His parents were Presbyterian dissenters, and around the age of 14 he attended a dissenting academy at Newington Green in London run by Charles Morton, and he is believed to have attended the Newington Green Unitarian Church. During this period, the English government persecuted those who chose to worship outside the Church of England.



BUSINESS CAREER



- Defoe entered the world of business as a general merchant, dealing at different times in hosiery, general woollen goods, and wine. His ambitions were great and he was able to buy a country estate and a ship (as well as civets to make perfume), though he was rarely out of debt. In 1684, Defoe married Mary Tuffley, the daughter of a London merchant, receiving a dowry of £3,700 – a huge amount by the standards of the day. With his debts and political difficulties, the marriage may have been troubled, but it lasted 50 years and produced eight children.

LATE WRITING AND NOVELS

- The extent and particulars are widely contested concerning Defoe's writing in the period from the Tory fall in 1714 to the publication of *Robinson Crusoe* in 1719. Defoe comments on the tendency to attribute tracts of uncertain authorship to him in his apologia *Appeal to Honour and Justice* (1715), a defence of his part in Harley's Tory ministry (1710–14). Other works that anticipate his novelistic career include *The Family Instructor* (1715), a conduct manual on religious duty; *Minutes of the Negotiations of Monsr. Mesnager* (1717), in which he impersonates Nicolas Mesnager, the French plenipotentiary who negotiated the Treaty of Utrecht (1713); and *A Continuation of the Letters Writ by a Turkish Spy* (1718), a satire of European politics and religion, ostensibly written by a Muslim in Paris



NOVELS

- • Robinson Crusoe (1719)
- • The Farther Adventures of Robinson Crusoe (1719)
- • Serious reflections during the life and surprising adventures of Robinson Crusoe: with his Vision of the angelick world (1720)
- • Memoirs of a Cavalier (1720)
- • Captain Singleton (1720)
- • A Journal of the Plague Year (1722)
- • Colonel Jack (1722)
- • Moll Flanders (1722)
- • Roxana: The Fortunate Mistress (1724)

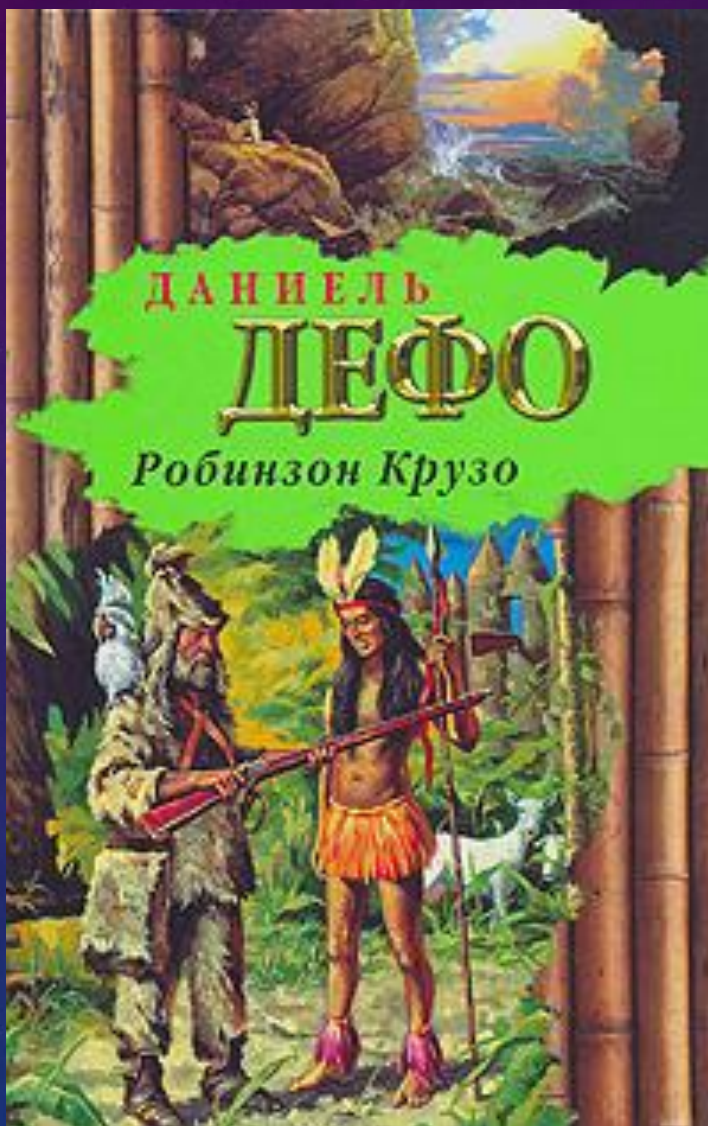
ДАНИЕЛЬ ДЕФО



Молль Флендерс

ДАНИЕЛЬ
ДЕФО

Робинзон Крузо



ДАНИЕЛЬ ДЕФО

Счастливая куртизанка,
или Роксана

ROBINSON CRUSOE



- Defoe's novel *Robinson Crusoe* (1719) relates the story of a man's shipwreck on a desert island for thirty years and his subsequent adventures. Usually read as fiction, a coincidence of background geography suggests that this may be non-fiction. In the opening pages of *The Further Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*, the author describes how Crusoe settled in Bedford, married and produced a family, and that when his wife died, he went off on these further adventures. Bedford is also the place where the brother of "H. F." in *A Journal of the Plague Year* retired to avoid the danger of the plague, so that by implication, if these works were not fiction, Defoe's family met Crusoe in Bedford, from whence the information in these books was gathered. Defoe went to school in Stoke Newington, London, with a friend named Caruso.
- The novel has been assumed to be based in part on the story of the Scottish castaway Alexander Selkirk, who spent four years stranded in the Juan Fernández Islands, but this is inconsistent with the details of the narrative. The island Selkirk lived on was named Más a Tierra (Closer to Land) at the time and was renamed Robinson Crusoe Island in 1966. It has been supposed that Defoe may have also been inspired by the Latin or English translation of a book by the Andalusian-Arab Muslim polymath Ibn Tufail, who was known as "Abubacer" in Europe. The Latin edition of the book was entitled *Philosophus Autodidactus* and it was an earlier novel that is also set on a deserted island



THE
LIFE AND ADVENTURES
OF
ALEXANDER SELKIRK,

THE REAL
ROBINSON CRUSOE.

A NARRATIVE FOUNDED ON FACTS.

Revised by J. A. James, Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI:
PUBLISHED BY U. P. JAMES,
NO. 1, BAKER STREET,
1835.



He Gets to Sea.



Is Taken by Pirates.



Escapes from Ship.



Saves Goods from the Wreck.



Discovers Savages.



Hunts a Whale.



He and Friday go to Battle.



He rides on a Bear.



Robinson in England.







DEATH

- Bunhill Fields monument detail
- Daniel Defoe died on 24 April 1731, probably while in hiding from his creditors. He was interred in Bunhill Fields, (today Bunhill Fields Burial and Gardens), Borough of Islington, London, where a monument was erected to his memory in 1870.
- Defoe is known to have used at least 198 pen names.

