Daniel Defoe had an eventful and adventurous life as a merchant, politician, spy, and literary hack. He is one of the eighteenth century’s most lively, innovative, and important authors, famous not only for his novels, including *Robinson Crusoe*, *Moll Flanders*, and *Roxana*, but for his extensive work in journalism, political polemic, and conduct guides, and for his pioneering “Tour through the Whole Island of Great Britain.” This volume surveys the wide range of Defoe’s fiction and non-fiction, and assesses his importance as writer and thinker. Leading scholars discuss key issues in Defoe’s novels, and show how the man who was once pilloried for his writings emerges now as a key figure in the literature and culture of the early eighteenth century.

**John Richetti** is A.M. Rosenthal Professor (Emeritus) of English at the University of Pennsylvania.
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   From A Survey of the Cities of London and Westminster and the Borough of Southwark: containing the original, antiquity, increase, present state and government of those cities, by John Stow. Sixth edition, 1754–55. Courtesy of Special Collections, University of Virginia Library. page 160

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS


**Hal Gladfelder** is a lecturer in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century English literature and culture at the University of Manchester. He is the author of *Criminality and Narrative in Eighteenth-Century England: Beyond the Law* (2001) and has edited John Cleland’s *Memoirs of a Coxcomb* (2005).

**J. Paul Hunter** is the Barbara E. and Richard J. Franke Professor Emeritus at the University of Chicago and now teaches spring semesters at the University of Virginia. His scholarly and critical work has mostly involved prose fiction (*Before Novels: The Cultural Contexts of Eighteenth-Century English Fiction* (1990) won the Gottschalk Prize of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in 1991), but he is now at work on a cultural history of the couplet, tentatively entitled
Sound Argument, and the ninth edition of the Norton Introduction to Poetry has recently appeared.

Deidre Shauna Lynch is Chancellor Jackman Professor and Associate Professor of English at the University of Toronto. Her publications include the prize-winning The Economy of Character: Novels, Market Culture, and the Business of Inner Meaning (1998) and Janeites: Austen's Disciples and Devotees (2000). A 2007 Guggenheim Fellow, she is currently completing a manuscript titled “At Home in English: A Cultural History of the Love of Literature.”


Maximillian E. Novak is Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Emeritus, at the University of California at Los Angeles. In addition to having written books on Defoe, Congreve, and the eighteenth century in general, he has edited several volumes of the California Edition of the Works of John Dryden and The Stoke Newington Edition of Daniel Defoe. He is one of the general editors of the latter edition.

Ellen Pollak is the author of Incest and the English Novel, 1684–1814 (2003), The Poetics of Sexual Myth: Gender and Ideology in the Verse of Swift and Pope (1985), and essays on Behn, Defoe, Haywood, Manley, Swift, and Dorothy Parker, among others. She is Professor of English at Michigan State University, where she teaches feminist theory and eighteenth-century literature and culture, and where she presently serves as Director of Graduate Studies.


Pat Rogers is DeBartolo Professor in the Liberal Arts at the University of South Florida and the editor of The Cambridge Companion to Alexander Pope (2007).
Relevant previous works include Defoe: The Critical Heritage (1972; 1995), Robinson Crusoe (1979), and an edition of Moll Flanders (1993); two abridged editions of Defoe’s Tour thro’ the Whole Island of Great Britain (1971; 1989 and 1993), as well as the introduction to the Folio Society edition (1983), and a study The Text of Great Britain: Theme and Design in Defoe’s Tour (1998). His current projects include a series of linked essays exploring the Tour in relation to antiquarianism, crime, demography, economic geography, politics, topographic and touristic writing, travel, and urban history.

Michael Seidel is Jesse and George Siegel Professor in the Humanities at Columbia University. His books include Epic Geography: James Joyce’s Ulysses (1976), Satiric Inheritance: Rabelais to Sterne (1979), Exile and the Narrative Imagination (1986), Robinson Crusoe: Island Myths and the Novel (1991), and James Joyce: A Short Introduction (2002). He is co-editor of the first two volumes in the Stoke-Newington Works of Daniel Defoe, and wrote the introduction and notes for the Barnes & Noble edition of Moll Flanders (2005).

Cynthia Wall is Professor of English at the University of Virginia. She is the author of The Prose of Things: Transformations of Description in the Eighteenth Century (2006) and The Literary and Cultural Spaces of Restoration London (1998) and has edited works by Defoe and Pope, and the Norton Critical Edition of Bunyan’s The Pilgrim’s Progress.
CHRONOLOGY

1660 or 1661  Daniel Foe born in London (exact date unknown), son of James and Alice Foe.
              Restoration of the Stuart monarchy as Charles II returns to England.

1662  Act of Uniformity passed, mandating conformity in religious services to the Church of England Book of Common Prayer and requiring office-holders to be members of the state church. The Foes followed the lead of their minister, Samuel Annesley, and left the Church of England to become Dissenters.

1663  Drury Lane Theatre in London reopens.

1664  The Conventicle Act outlaws Nonconformist worship in gatherings of more than five people.

1664  Second Anglo-Dutch War (to 1667). Dutch ships sail up the Thames and destroy much of the English fleet.

1665–66  The Great Plague (kills over 70,000 people in London) and the Great Fire of London (consumes most of the old wooden city).


1675  Greenwich Observatory established by Charles II.

1678  “Exclusion Crisis” as the Earl of Shaftesbury leads a movement to exclude James, Charles II’s Roman Catholic brother from the succession to the throne.
c. 1683  Foe is established as a wholesale hosiery merchant, living in Cornhill, near the Royal Exchange.

1684  Marries Mary Tuffley and receives a dowry of £3,700.

1685  Death of Charles II – succeeded by his brother, the Catholic James II.
      Louis XIV revokes the Edict of Nantes, ending religious toleration in France.
      Foe participates in the unsuccessful rebellion against James II led by the Duke of Monmouth, one of Charles II’s illegitimate sons.

1685–92  Becomes a prosperous businessman dealing in hosiery, tobacco, wine, and other goods. Seems to have travelled extensively on business in England and in Europe.

1688  The “Glorious Revolution”: James II is forced to vacate the throne and Prince William of Orange in the Netherlands is invited to reign as William III of England, with James’s daughter, Mary, as his queen.

1690  William III defeats James II at the Battle of the Boyne in Ireland.

1692  Foe declares bankruptcy for £17,000 and is imprisoned for debt.

      Foe establishes a brick and tile factory at Tilbury, in Essex.

1695  Daniel Foe begins to call himself Defoe.

      Death of Queen Mary.


1701  James II dies in exile.
      Act of Settlement establishes Hanoverian succession.
      *The True-Born Englishman*, a poetic satire of English xenophobia and a defense of William III, who was Dutch by birth.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1703</td>
<td>Defoe arrested for writing <em>The Shortest Way</em>, charged with sedition, committed to Newgate prison and sentenced to stand in the pillory for three days. He publishes the poem <em>A Hymn to the Pillory</em> and an authorized collection of his writings, <em>A True Collection of the Writings of the Author of The True-Born Englishman</em> (a second volume in 1705). Released through the influence of the powerful politician and Speaker of the House, Robert Harley, but his brick and tile factory fails while he is in prison. Bankrupt again.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1704</td>
<td>The English capture Gibraltar; Duke of Marlborough defeats the French at Blenheim. Defoe begins the <em>Review</em>, a pro-government newssheet appearing as often as three times a week (until 1713).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1704–13</td>
<td>Defoe acts as secret agent and political journalist for Harley and other ministers, travelling widely in England and Scotland, promoting the union of the two countries.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1707</td>
<td>Union of England and Scotland.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1710</td>
<td>Tories gain control of Parliament under leadership of Robert Harley (later Earl of Oxford) and Henry St. John (later Viscount Bolingbroke). Statute of Queen Anne passed by Parliament, limiting copyright to twenty-eight years and recognizing authors’ rights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1711</td>
<td>Founding of the South Sea Company.</td>
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<td>1713</td>
<td>Treaty of Utrecht, ending the War of the Spanish Succession.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1713–14</td>
<td>Defoe arrested several times for debt and for his political writings but released through government influence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1714</td>
<td>Death of Queen Anne; accession of George I, the Elector of Hanover. Fall of the Tory government.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Family Instructor, the first of his conduct books.

Jacobite Rebellion in support of James II’s son, “James III,” the “Old Pretender.”

Death of Louis XIV of France.

Robert Harley (Earl of Oxford) and Henry St. John (Viscount Bolingbroke) are impeached for high treason. Bolingbroke flees to France.

Robinson Crusoe, The Farther Adventures of Robinson Crusoe.

Captain Singleton, Serious Reflections of ... Robinson Crusoe.

War with Spain declared.

South Sea Company fails (“South Sea Bubble”).

Robinson Crusoe, The Farther Adventures of Robinson Crusoe.

A Journal of the Plague Year, Moll Flanders, and Colonel Jack.

Roxana, A General History of the Pyrates, A Tour thro’ the Whole Island of Great Britain (3 volumes, 1724–26).

The Complete English Tradesman, volume 1.

The Political History of the Devil.


Death of George I.

Augusta Triumphans, A Plan of the English Commerce.

The Compleat English Gentleman (not published until 1890).

Dies on 24 April in Ropemaker’s Alley, London, in debt, hiding from creditors.