

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-67505-5 - The Cambridge Companion to Daniel Defoe

Edited by John Richetti

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THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO DANIEL DEFOE

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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## NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

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PAULA R. BACKSCHEIDER is Philpott-Stevens Eminent Scholar in English at Auburn University. Among her books is *Daniel Defoe: His Life* (1990), which won the British Council Prize in 1990 and was selected by *Choice* as one of the ten Outstanding Academic Books for 1990. She is also the author of *A Being More Intense* (1984), *Daniel Defoe: Ambition and Innovation* (1986), *Spectacular Politics: Theatrical Power and Mass Culture in Early Modern England* (1993), and *Reflections on Biography* (1999). She has edited *Selected Fiction and Drama by Eliza Haywood* (1999) and, with John Richetti, the anthology *Popular Fiction by Women, 1660–1730* (1997). She has recently completed *Inventing Agency, Inventing Genre: Eighteenth-Century Women Poets and Their Poetry* (2007).

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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

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*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."

JOHN McVEAGH is Emeritus Professor of English at the University of Ulster. His publications include *Tradeful Merchants* (1981), *Strangers to That Land* (1994, co-edited with Andrew Hadfield), and other books on travel writing, eighteenth-century British literature, and Restoration drama. He has contributed a number of volumes to the Pickering Masters edition of *The Collected Works of Daniel Defoe* (2000–ongoing) including a new complete and annotated edition of Defoe's *Review* (2003–ongoing).

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.

JOHN RICHETTI is A. M. Rosenthal Professor of English, Emeritus, at the University of Pennsylvania. His most recent book is *The Life of Daniel Defoe: A Critical Biography* (2005). Among his other books are *Popular Fiction Before Richardson: 1700–1739* (1969; rpt. 1992), *Defoe's Narratives: Situations and Structures* (1975), *Philosophical Writing: Locke, Berkeley, Hume* (1983), and *The English Novel in History 1700–1780* (1999). He has also edited *The Columbia History of the British Novel* (1994), *The Cambridge Companion to the Eighteenth-Century English Novel* (1996), *Popular Fiction by Women, 1660–1730* (with Paula Backscheider, 1997), the Penguin *Robinson Crusoe* (2000), and *The Cambridge History of English Literature, 1660–1780* (2005).

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).



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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. 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).
c. 1671–79	Attends school of the Rev. James Fisher at Dorking, Surrey, and then the Dissenting Academy of Rev. Charles Morton, Newington Green, north of London.
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.

CHRONOLOGY

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.
1685	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.
1694	Founding of the Bank of England. Foe establishes a brick and tile factory at Tilbury, in Essex.
1695	Daniel Foe begins to call himself Defoe.
1697	Publication of Defoe's first book, <i>An Essay on Projects</i> , a series of proposals for radical social and economic change. Death of Queen Mary.
1697–1701	Defoe acts as an agent for William III in England and Scotland.
1701	James II dies in exile. Act of Settlement establishes Hanoverian succession. <i>The True-Born Englishman</i> , a poetic satire of English xenophobia and a defense of William III, who was Dutch by birth.

CHRONOLOGY

1702	<p>Death of William III; accession of Queen Anne, James II's daughter.</p> <p>England declares war against France and Spain: the War of the Spanish Succession. John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, is named Captain-General of the English army.</p> <p><i>The Shortest Way with the Dissenters</i>, a satiric attack on High Church extremists.</p>
1703	<p>Defoe arrested for writing <i>The Shortest Way</i>, charged with sedition, committed to Newgate prison and sentenced to stand in the pillory for three days. He publishes the poem <i>A Hymn to the Pillory</i> and an authorized collection of his writings, <i>A True Collection of the Writings of the Author of The True-Born Englishman</i> (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.</p>
1704	<p>The English capture Gibraltar; Duke of Marlborough defeats the French at Blenheim.</p> <p>Defoe begins the <i>Review</i>, a pro-government newsheet appearing as often as three times a week (until 1713).</p>
1704–13	<p>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.</p>
1707	<p>Union of England and Scotland.</p>
1710	<p>Tories gain control of Parliament under leadership of Robert Harley (later Earl of Oxford) and Henry St. John (later Viscount Bolingbroke).</p> <p>Statute of Queen Anne passed by Parliament, limiting copyright to twenty-eight years and recognizing authors' rights.</p>
1711	<p>Founding of the South Sea Company.</p>
1713	<p>Treaty of Utrecht, ending the War of the Spanish Succession.</p>
1713–14	<p>Defoe arrested several times for debt and for his political writings but released through government influence.</p>
1714	<p>Death of Queen Anne; accession of George I, the Elector of Hanover.</p> <p>Fall of the Tory government.</p>

CHRONOLOGY

1715	<p><i>The Family Instructor</i>, the first of his conduct books.</p> <p>Jacobite Rebellion in support of James II's son, "James III," the "Old Pretender."</p> <p>Death of Louis XIV of France.</p> <p>Robert Harley (Earl of Oxford) and Henry St. John (Viscount Bolingbroke) are impeached for high treason. Bolingbroke flees to France.</p>
1719	<p><i>Robinson Crusoe</i>, <i>The Farther Adventures of Robinson Crusoe</i>.</p>
1720	<p><i>Captain Singleton</i>, <i>Serious Reflections of ... Robinson Crusoe</i>.</p> <p>War with Spain declared.</p> <p>South Sea Company fails ("South Sea Bubble").</p>
1721	<p>Robert Walpole appointed First Lord of the Treasury and Chancellor of the Exchequer.</p>
1722	<p><i>A Journal of the Plague Year</i>, <i>Moll Flanders</i>, and <i>Colonel Jack</i>.</p>
1724	<p><i>Roxana</i>, <i>A General History of the Pyrates</i>, <i>A Tour thro' the Whole Island of Great Britain</i> (3 volumes, 1724–26).</p>
1725	<p><i>The Complete English Tradesman</i>, volume I.</p>
1726	<p><i>The Political History of the Devil</i>.</p>
1727	<p><i>Conjugal Lewdness</i>, <i>An Essay on the History and Reality of Apparitions</i>, <i>A New Family Instructor</i>, <i>The Complete English Tradesman</i>, volume II.</p> <p>Death of George I.</p>
1728	<p><i>Augusta Triumphans</i>, <i>A Plan of the English Commerce</i>.</p>
1729	<p><i>The Compleat English Gentleman</i> (not published until 1890).</p>
1731	<p>Dies on 24 April in Ropemaker's Alley, London, in debt, hiding from creditors.</p>