



Smithsonian Associates

Robinson Crusoe: The Classic Castaway

Clay Jenkinson

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 - 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. ET

A Daniel Defoe Timeline

-1660	born Daniel Foe in London
-1662	Act of Uniformity forces family out of Church of England
-1665	Great Plague of London
-1666	Great Fire of London
-1671-79	attends academy for dissenters preparing for career as preacher
-1683	begins his life as a merchant
-1684	marries Mary Tuffley, seven children
-1685-92	prosperity as merchant, writes political tracts
-1688-1702	supports and writes for King William II or Orange
-1692	bankrupt, imprisoned for debt
-1695	adds prefix De to name
-1697	<i>An Essay on Projects</i>
-1702	<i>The Shortest Way with the Dissenters</i> , a satiric attack on high church extremists
-1703	arrest, Newgate, pillory – publishes <i>Hymn to the Pillory</i> – another bankruptcy
-1703-30	released from prison at instigation of Robert Hartley – becomes political journalist, secret agent, etc.
-1704-13	edits <i>The Review</i> , a thrice-weekly journal
-1713-14	arrested several times for debt and for political writings
-1719	<i>Robinson Crusoe</i>
-1722	<i>Moll Flanders – A Journal of the Plague Year – Colonel Jack</i>
-1724	<i>Roxanna – A General History of the Pyrates – A Tour Thro’ the Whole Island of Great Britain</i> (three volumes)
-1726	<i>The Political History of the Devil</i>
-1727	<i>Conjugal Lewdness (A Treatise on the Use and Abuse of the Marriage Bed) – An Essay on the History and Reality of Apparitions</i>
1731	April 24 – dies of “a lethargy”

Best edition of *Robinson Crusoe* – the Norton Critical Edition edited by Michael Shinagel.

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Clay Jenkinson

Books by Clay Jenkinson

The Language of Cottonwoods: Essays on the Future of North Dakota

Bring Out Your Dead: The Literature and History of Epidemics

*Message on the Wind: A Spiritual Odyssey
on the Northern Plains*

*The Writings of the Lewis & Clark Expedition
in North Dakota*

*Becoming Jefferson's People: Re-Inventing
The American Republic in the 21st Century*

*A Free and Hardy Life: Theodore Roosevelt's
Sojourn in the American West*

*The Character of Meriwether Lewis: Explorer
in the Wilderness*

Listening to America is Clay Jenkinson's new initiative to make a series of journeys in search of the soul of America at this perplexing time in our history. Please visit ltamerica.org for more details. Sign up for Clay's newsletter there. Meanwhile, if you have an Airstream trailer you are not using (face it!), please consider donating it to Listening to America. Our first field trip (just ended): Water and the West: The West Runs Dry.
-Clay

About Daniel Defoe:

"In this and other tales which followed, Defoe was able to use all his greatest gifts: the ability to re-create a milieu vividly, through the cumulative effect of carefully observed, often petty details; a special skill in writing relaxed and careless prose which seems to reveal the consciousness of the first-person narrator and which comes alive because the language is the language of actual speech; his wide knowledge of the society in which he lived, both the trading bourgeoisie and the rogues who preyed on them; and his absorption in the spectacle of the lonely human being, whether Crusoe on his island or Mill Flanders in England and Virginia, somehow bending a stubborn and indifferent environment to his own ends of survival or profits. He was interested in the mere process of living, and there is something of himself in all his protagonists: enormous vitality, ultimate humanity, a scheming and not always edifying ingenuity." Samuel Holt Monk, *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*

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Clay is the editor of *We Proceeded On*, the quarterly journal of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. You should subscribe:
www.lewisandclark.org.

Clay performs a one-man show called **Shakespeare without Tears** throughout the United States. The purpose is to show a: that Shakespeare is not nearly so intimidating as he might seem; b: that today is the best time since the Elizabethan era to appreciate Shakespeare. This highly entertaining show is not just for English majors!

Clay is a writer, public humanities scholar, editor, public radio personality, adventurer, leader of cultural tours. He lives in Bismarck, North Dakota, one of the last agrarian places in America. He has a particular interest in the American West.

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