

Liceo “Galileo Galilei”

2nd March 2012

10.00 – 11.30

English through
literature (16th – 19th c.),
music and cinema.

Speaker: Silvia Mazzau

ADVENTURE at SEA



17th c. – DANIEL DEFOE

19th c. – R.L. STEVENSON

1. DANIEL DEFOE

(1659-1661 -1731)

English writer, pamphleteer and journalist, he is the founder of the English novel with his *Robinson Crusoe* (1719) and other works.

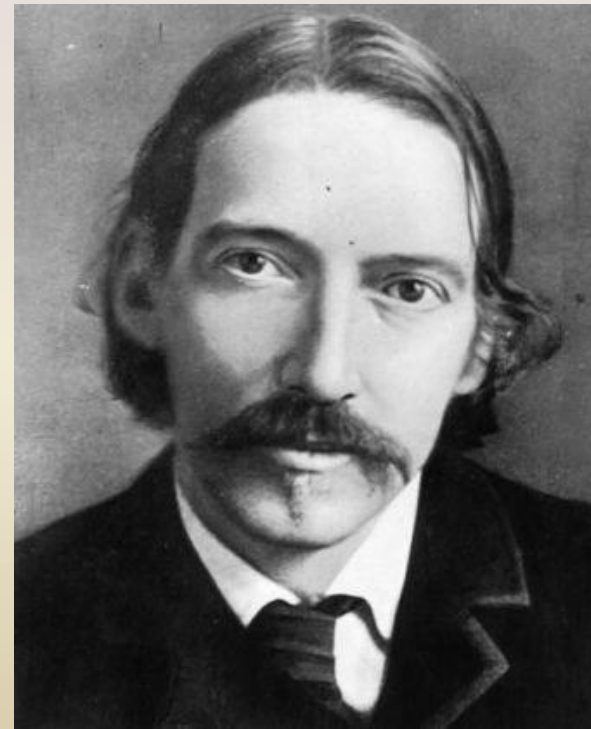
A prolific and versatile writer, he wrote more than 500 books, pamphlets and journals on crime, politics, marriage, psychology, religion and the supernatural.



2. ROBERT L. STEVENSON

(1850 – 1894)

Scottish novelist, poet, essayist and travel writer, his best-known works include *Treasure Island* (1883) and *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1886). A literary celebrity during his lifetime, in the early 20th c. he was seen as a second-class writer. Nowadays he ranks among the 30 most translated authors in the world.



HUMAN RIGHTS & EDUCATION

17th c. – APHRA BEHN

18th c. – M. WOLLSTONECRAFT

3. APHRA BEHN

(1640 – 1689)

One of the first English women to earn her livelihood by authorship, she was a prolific writer of the period of the Restoration. Recruited as a political spy, she took an interest in social issues such as slavery in novels like *Oroonoko* (1688) and her works show amazing affinities with those of Romantic writers.



4. MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT

(1759 – 1797)

British writer, philosopher, and advocate of women's rights, during her brief career she wrote novels like *Mary: a Fiction* (1788), treatises, a travel narrative, a history of the French Revolution, a children's book at a time in which writing was seen as a precarious and disreputable profession for women.



MYTHS & LEGENDS



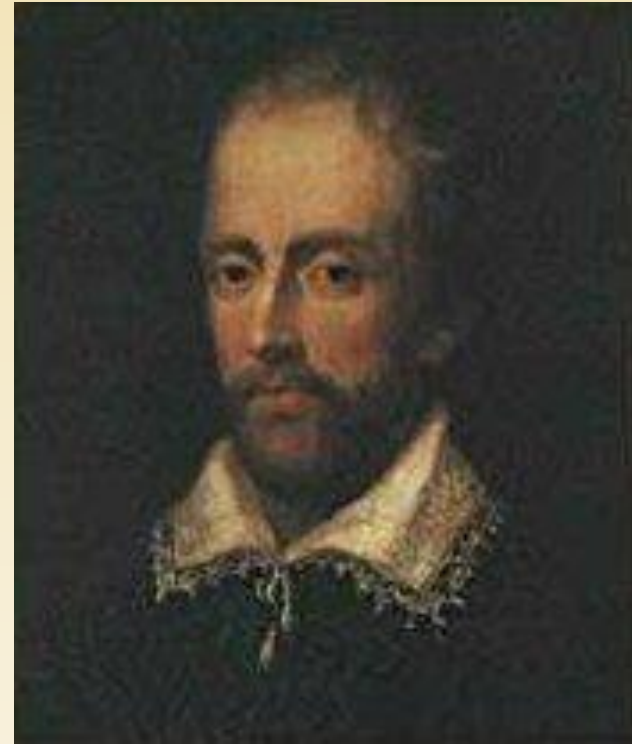
16th c. – EDMUND SPENSER

18th c. – JAMES MACPHERSON

5. EDMUND SPENSER

(1552 – 1599)

An English poet best known for *The Faerie Queene* (1590/96), an epic poem and fantastical allegory which celebrates the Tudor dynasty and Elizabeth I. He is recognized as one of the premier craftsmen of Modern English verse in its infancy, and one of the greatest poets in the English language.



6. JAMES MACPHERSON

(1736 – 1796)

Scottish writer, poet, literary collector and politician, he is known as the “translator” of the *Ossian cycle* of poems (1761): by its deep appreciation of natural beauty and the melancholy tenderness of its treatment of the ancient legend, it contributed to bring about the Romantic movement in European literature.



UTOPIA & DYSTOPIA



16th c. – THOMAS MORE

18th c. – JONATHAN SWIFT

7. THOMAS MORE

(1478 – 1535)



Saint Thomas More was an English lawyer, social philosopher, writer, statesman and noted Renaissance humanist. He coined the word “utopia”, a name he gave to the ideal, imaginary island whose political system he described in his masterpiece *Utopia* (1516).

8. JONATHAN SWIFT

(1667 – 1745)



Anglo-Irish satirist, essayist, political pamphleteer (first for the Whigs, then for the Tories), poet and cleric who became Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. He is probably the foremost prose satirist in the English language with his huge success *Gulliver's Travels* (1726).