

## CHRONOLOGY

- 1850 Born Robert Lewis Balfour Stevenson (he would later adopt the French form 'Louis') on 13 November 1850, in Edinburgh. His father Thomas came from a long line of engineers (famous in Scotland for their lighthouses), and his mother Margaret Isabella Balfour was from a family of lawyers.
- 1857 Moves to 17 Heriot Row in Edinburgh's New Town district.
- 1867 Enrols at Edinburgh University to follow in the family tradition and study engineering, but soon abandons this to study law.
- 1875 Passes 'advocate' and is called to the Scottish Bar, but never practises.
- 1876 Starts publishing in magazines, his early works are mostly travel pieces drawing on his experiences in various countries. Meets Fanny Osbourne, an American of thirty-six who was separated from her husband.
- 1877 *An Inland Voyage* published, an account of a journey by canoe in northern France.
- 1878 *Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes* is published recounting his adventures in southern France.
- 1879 Joins Fanny in California, an account of which he later published as *The Amateur Emigrant* (1894).
- 1880 Marries Fanny.
- 1881 *Virginia Puerisque* (essays) published.
- 1882 *New Arabian Nights*, a collection of short stories published.
- 1883 *The Silverado Squatters* published, which recounts his honeymoon in a Californian silver mine. *Treasure Island*, one of the most

CHRONOLOGY

- famous children's adventure stories, is also published, which starts to establish his reputation as a writer.
- 1884 Moves to Bournemouth, to a house which they re-name 'Skerrymore' in honour of one of Stevenson's ancestor's lighthouses. 'The Body Snatcher' published at Christmas.
- 1885 *Prince Otto* and *The Dynamiter* published. 'Olalla' published at Christmas.
- 1886 *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* published in January, originally intended for Christmas 1885, but withdrawn owing to a rather full market. First editions of this novel retain the 1885 date on the title page. This was the work that made Stevenson's reputation. *Kidnapped* published.
- 1887 *The Merry Men and Other Fables* published. Death of Thomas Stevenson.
- 1888 The Stevensons' first trip to the South Seas. (The Whitechapel Murders take place in East London while a stage version of *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* is playing on the London stage. It is withdrawn out of public delicacy.)
- 1889 *The Master of Ballantrae* published. *The Wrong Box*, written with his stepson Lloyd Osbourne, published. Settles in the Samoan Islands.
- 1892 'The Beach of Falsea' published.
- 1893 *Island Nights' Entertainments* and *Catriona* (the sequel to *Kidnapped*) published.
- 1894 *The Ebb-Tide* published. Dies in Samoa in December of tuberculosis.
- 1896 The unfinished *Weir of Hermiston* published.
- 1914 Death of Fanny Stevenson.