

Robert Michael Ballantyne

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Robert Michael Ballantyne



Born April 24, 1825
Edinburgh, Scotland

Died February 8, 1894
Rome, Italy

R. M. Ballantyne (April 24, 1825 – February 8, 1894) was a Scottish juvenile fiction writer.

Born **Robert Michael Ballantyne** in Edinburgh, he was part of a famous family of printers and publishers. At the age of 16 he went to Canada and was six years in the service of the Hudson's Bay

Company. He returned to Scotland in 1847, and published his first book the following year, *Hudson's Bay: or, Life in the Wilds of North America*. For some time he was employed by Messrs Constable, the publishers, but in 1856 he gave up business for the profession of literature, and began the series of adventure stories for the young with which his name is popularly associated.

The Young Fur-Traders (1856), *The Coral Island* (1857), *The World of Ice* (1859), *Ungava: a Tale of Eskimo Land* (1857), *The Dog Crusoe* (1860), *The Lighthouse* (1865), *Deep Down* (1868), *The Pirate City* (1874), *Erling the Bold* (1869), *The Settler and the Savage* (1877), and other books, to the number of upwards of a hundred, followed in regular succession, his rule being in every case to write as far as possible from personal knowledge of the scenes he described.

His stories had the merit of being thoroughly healthy in tone and possessed considerable graphic force. Ballantyne was also no mean artist, and exhibited some of his water-colours at the Royal Scottish Academy. He lived in later years at Harrow, and died in Rome, Italy, where he had gone to attempt to shake off the results of

overwork. He wrote a volume of *Personal Reminiscences of Book-making* (1893).

External links

- Biography at the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online*
- Works by R. M. Ballantyne at Project Gutenberg
- R. M. Ballantyne at Fantastic Fiction
- The Pirate City by R. M. Ballantyne

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