

# J. Meade Falkner

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**John Meade Falkner**



**Pseudonym:** J. Meade Falkner

**Born:** May 8, 1858  
Manningford Bruce, Wiltshire,  
England

**Died:** July 22, 1932 (aged 74)  
Durham, England

**Occupation:** Novelist

**Nationality:** English

**Writing period:** 1895 - 1903

**Debut works:** The Lost Stradivarius

**John Meade Falkner** (8 May 1858 - 22 July 1932) was an English novelist and poet, best known for his 1898 novel, *Moonfleet*. An extremely successful businessman as well, he became chairman of the arms manufacturer Armstrong Whitworth during World War I.

He was born in Manningford Bruce, Wiltshire, spent much of his childhood in Dorchester and Weymouth and educated at Marlborough College and Hertford College, Oxford, graduating with a degree in history in 1882. After Oxford, he was a master at Derby School, then went to Newcastle as tutor to the family of Sir Andrew Noble, who ran Armstrongs of Newcastle, one of the largest arms manufacturers in the world. Falkner eventually followed him as chairman in 1916, hard though this is to equate with his interest in poetry, architecture and heraldry. In his business travels round the world, Falkner brought back antiquarian treasures of all kinds.

After his retirement as chairman in 1921 he became Honorary Reader in Paleography at Durham University, as well as Honorary Librarian to the Dean and Chapter Library. Falkner fell in love with Durham and, although he spent his later years traveling frequently, he called Durham his home, living in the Divinity House on Palace Green in front of the cathedral from 1902 until his death. There is a commemorative plaque there, while his monument is in the South Cloister of the cathedral.

In addition to his three novels and his poetry, he also wrote three topographical guides (Oxfordshire, Bath and Berkshire) and a *History of Oxfordshire*.

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## Bibliography

## **Fiction**

- *The Lost Stradivarius* (1895)
- *Moonfleet* (1898)
- *The Nebuly Coat* (1903)

## **Non-Fiction**

- *Handbook for Travellers in Oxfordshire* (1894)
- *A History of Oxfordshire* (1899)
- *Handbook for Berkshire* (1902)
- *Bath in History and Social Tradition* (1918)

## **External links**

- Works by John Meade Falkner at Project Gutenberg
- John Meade Falkner Society web site

## **References**

- John Meade Falkner, sportsman, at island.net

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"[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J.\\_Meade\\_Falkner](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._Meade_Falkner)"

Categories: 1858 births | 1932 deaths | People from Wiltshire | English novelists | English children's writers | Old Marlburians | Alumni of Hertford College, Oxford | Old Derbeians | Academics of Durham University

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