

DANIEL DEFOE

CAPTAIN SINGLETON

Edited by Shiv K. Kumar
With a new Introduction
by Penelope Wilson

**'I am a Thief, a Pirate, a Murtherer, and ought
to be hanged.'**

Kidnapped as a child, Bob Singleton goes to sea at the age of 12 and makes a fortune crossing Africa on foot, loses it, and makes another as a pirate before he is ultimately reformed. *Captain Singleton* is an adventure story, a travel narrative, and an exploration of society from the point of view of its outcasts. Published in 1720, the year after *Robinson Crusoe*, *Singleton* has been traditionally categorized as a minor work, but it is open to much fuller appreciation in today's critical climate. It is both a novel of ideas and an arresting story of immense geographical sweep, which includes one of Defoe's most memorable characters, William the Quaker.

The text is that of the first edition, and in a new introduction Penelope Wilson takes account of the most recent developments in Defoe scholarship and criticism.