

# Bryan Donkin Biography

## Bryan Donkin

The following sections of this BookRags Literature Study Guide is offprint from Gale's For Students Series: Presenting Analysis, Context, and Criticism on Commonly Studied Works: Introduction, Author Biography, Plot Summary, Characters, Themes, Style, Historical Context, Critical Overview, Criticism and Critical Essays, Media Adaptations, Topics for Further Study, Compare & Contrast, What Do I Read Next?, For Further Study, and Sources.

(c)1998-2002; (c)2002 by Gale. Gale is an imprint of The Gale Group, Inc., a division of Thomson Learning, Inc. Gale and Design and Thomson Learning are trademarks used herein under license.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction: "Social Concerns", "Thematic Overview", "Techniques", "Literary Precedents", "Key Questions", "Related Titles", "Adaptations", "Related Web Sites". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults: "About the Author", "Overview", "Setting", "Literary Qualities", "Social Sensitivity", "Topics for Discussion", "Ideas for Reports and Papers". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

All other sections in this Literature Study Guide are owned and copyrighted by BookRags, Inc.

# Contents

<a href="#">Bryan Donkin Biography.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Biography.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>

# Biography

Bryan Donkin was born in Northumberland, England, in 1768. Apprenticed to papermaker John Hall in Kent, England, Donkin was given the task of setting up and improving the automated papermaking machine designed in 1798 by the Frenchman Nicolas Robert (1761-1828). Donkin established plants in 1803 and 1804 at Bermondsey and Frogmore with the first practical Robert machines and continued to build better models--191 of them--through 1851.

In 1811, Donkin and Hall purchased Peter Durand's 1810 patent for using tin cans to preserve food by the method of heat sterilization invented by Nicolas Francois Appert. Donkin and his partners set up England's first cannery in 1812 at Bermondsey, supplying tinned meats and soups to the Royal Navy as well as to the royal family. The cannery's success was assured after its products were used on John Ross's (1777-1856) expedition to the Arctic in 1814 and on Otto Kotzebue's (1787- 1846) voyage in search of the Northwest Passage in 1815.

Donkin's involvement in papermaking fostered his subsequent interest in printing technology. In 1813 he patented one of the first rotary presses. Although the machine itself was a failure, the composition rollers made of glue and treacle were an important innovation widely adopted by the industry.

Donkin was a founder in 1818 of the Institution of Civil Engineers. An avid amateur astronomer, he served for a time as president of the Royal Astronomical Society. Donkin died in London, England, in 1855.