



Image from: [WILKIE COLLINS in Great Victorian Lives: An Era in Obituaries](#)

Summary Article: **Collins, Wilkie**
From *The Columbia Encyclopedia*

(William Wilkie Collins), 1824–89, English novelist. Although trained as a lawyer, he spent most of his life writing. He produced some 30 novels, the best known of which are two mystery stories, *The Woman in White* (1860) and *The Moonstone* (1868). Considered the first full-length detective novels in English and among the best of their genre, these two works also helped to define the genre of literary melodrama that peaked at the end of the 19th cent. Collins's heroines and his female villains are drawn with considerable clarity and sympathy and are usually the strongest characters in his novels. He was a close friend of Dickens, in whose periodical *Household Words* many of Collins's novels first appeared. Collins also wrote short stories, travel books, essays, and plays.

See his letters, ed. by W. Baker and W. M. Clarke (2 vol., 1999);
biographies by W. M. Clarke (1988), C. Peters (1993), M. Klimaszewski (2011), and P. Ackroyd (2015);
studies by M. P. Davis (1956), W. H. Marshall (1970), N. Page (1974), and S. Lonoff (1982).

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Collins, Wilkie. (2018). In P. Lagasse, & Columbia University, *The Columbia encyclopedia* (8th ed.). New York, NY: Columbia University Press. Retrieved from https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/collins_wilkie_1824_1889



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