

Bibliography of Canonical Ontological Robinsonades

This bibliography includes works written in four languages: English, French, Spanish, and Italian. Titles are given in their original language for the sake of clarity and bibliographical consistency; whenever possible, references to English editions are also provided.

Compiled by Florence Lojacono as an updated extension of her seminal study *Roman de l'île et robinsonnade ontologique*. Paris: Petra, 2014. ISBN: 9782847430929.

Personal website: <https://florencelojacono.wixsite.com/website-3>

Related Zenodo resource:

Lojacono, Florence. *Basic Bibliography on Myth (Focus: Insularity)*
<https://zenodo.org/records/18909885>

1. What Is an Ontological Robinsonade?

Find here a short definition. A more complete explanation, including a narrative schema, is available in the document *Ontological_Robinsonade_Concept.pdf*.

The term *ontological Robinsonade* refers to narratives in which insularity is not merely an adventure motif but an existential condition. In these works, the island becomes a space of transformation where the protagonist attempts to abandon a former self in order to become a new being, often in a situation where the experience becomes a matter of life or death.

Two structural elements characterize the ontological Robinsonade: the presence of a **predecessor**, which mediates the desire for the island (in the sense described by René Girard 1961), and the presence of **primitivism**, linked to the myth of origins and the Great time (Mircea Eliade 1963).

The island is not always geographical; it may also appear as a metaphorical space of isolation, such as the wasteland between motorways in J. G. Ballard's *Concrete Island* or a working-class district on the outskirts of Barcelona in Manuel Vázquez Montalbán's *Los mares del Sur*.

1. Canonical Ontological Robinsonades

Ballard, J. G. *Concrete Island*. 1974. London: Random House, 1994.

Chadourne, Marc. *Vasco*. 1927. Paris: La Table Ronde, 1994.

Cortázar, Julio. "La Isla a mediodía". 1966. In *La Autopista del Sur y otras historias*, Luis G. Martín (ed.). 1991. 5th ed. Madrid: Bruño, 2003, 137–147.

English edition of *La isla a mediodía (The Island at Noon)*:

https://archive.org/details/allfiresfireothe0000cort_k1k6/mode/2up

Eco, Umberto. *L'isola del giorno prima*. 1994. Milan: Bompiani, 2000.

English edition of *L'isola del giorno prima (The Island of the Day Before)*:

https://archive.org/details/islandofdaybefor0000ecou_e2b8

- Gary**, Romain. *La tête coupable*. 1968. Paris: Gallimard, 2000.
English edition of *La tête coupable* (*The Guilty Head*):
<https://archive.org/details/guiltyhead0000roma/mode/2up>
- Huxley**, Aldous. *Island*. 1962. New York: HarperCollins, 2002.
- Lodge**, David. *Paradise News*. 1991. London: Penguin, 1992.
- Mann**, Thomas. *Der Tod in Venedig*. 1912. Munich and Vienna: C. Hanser, 1983.
English edition of *Der Tod in Venedig* (*Death in Venice*):
<https://www.fulltextarchive.com/book/death-in-venice/>
- Mendoza**, Eduardo. *La isla inaudita*. 1989. Barcelona: Seix Barral, 2002.
- Perry**, Jacques. *L'île d'un autre*. Paris: Librairie Générale Française, 1982.
- Rezvani**, Serge. *La nuit transfigurée*. 1986. Paris: Gallimard, 1993.
- Riera**, Miquel Àngel. *L'île Flaubert*. Translated from Catalan by Denise Boyer and Núria Oliver. Gardonne: Fédérop, 2003. Originally published as *Illa Flaubert*, 1990.
- Simenon**, Georges. *Long cours*. 1936. Paris: Gallimard, 1966.
———. “Touriste de bananes.” 1938. In *Tout Simenon*, no. 21. Paris: Presses de la Cité, 2002, 273–380.
English edition of *Touriste de bananes* (*Banana Tourist*):
<https://ia801901.us.archive.org/23/items/in.ernet.dli.2015.220095/2015.220095.Lost-Moorings.pdf>
- Theroux**, Paul. *The Mosquito Coast*. 1981. London: Penguin Books, 1982.
- Vázquez Montalbán**, Manuel. *Los mares del Sur*. 1979. Barcelona: Planeta, 1998.
English edition of *Los mares del Sur* (*Southern Seas*)
<https://archive.org/details/southernseas00vz/mode/2up>

3. Works Related to Canonical Robinsonades

The works listed here include texts by the same authors, as well as references and sources explicitly cited in or closely connected to the primary corpus.

3.1. Works by the Authors of the Corpus

- Ballard**, J. G. *The Terminal Beach*. 1964. London: Penguin Books, 1966.
———. *The Crystal World*. 1966. London: Triad Panther, 1978.
———. *Crash*. 1973. New York: The Noonday Press, 1994.
———. *Rushing to Paradise*. 1994. New York: Picador USA, 1996.
- Cortázar**, Julio. “Axolotl.” 1956. In *Final del juego*. Madrid: Alianza Editorial, 1991, 200–205.
———. *Los premios*. 1960. Buenos Aires: Edición Sudamericana, 1967.
———. “La autopista del sur.” 1966. In *La Autopista del Sur y otras historias*, Luis G. Martín ed. 1991. 5th ed. Madrid: Bruño, 2003, 103–135.
———. “Adiós, Robinson.” In *Adiós, Robinson y otras piezas breves*. Madrid: Alfaguara, 1995, 149–170.

Cortázar, Julio. “Algunos aspectos del cuento (1962-1963)”. In *Obra crítica*, vol. 2, Jaime Alazraki (ed.), 367–385. Buenos Aires: Alfaguara, 1994.

Gary, Romain. *Pour Sganarelle. Recherche d'un personnage et d'un roman.* 1965. Paris, Gallimard, Folio, 2003.

The *Frère Océan* trilogy comprises one essay and two novels: *Pour Sganarelle, recherche d'un personnage et d'un roman* (1965), *La Danse de Gengis Cohn* (1967), and *La Tête coupable* (1968).

Gary, Romain *La Danse de Gengis Cohn.* 1967. Paris: Gallimard, 2003.

Gary, Romain (Émile Ajar). *L'Angoisse du roi Salomon.* 1979. Paris: Gallimard, 2005.

Gary, Romain *L'Affaire homme.* Jean-François Hangouët and Paul Audi (eds.). Paris: Gallimard, 2005.

Related to: Gary (1968), especially the chapter “Qu’advient-il du visage humain?”

Huxley, Aldous. *Brave New World.* 1932. London: Triad, 1993.

———. *The Art of Seeing.* London: Chatto and Windus, 1944.

———. *Time Must Have a Stop.* 1944. Champaign: Dalkey Archive Press, 1998.

———. *The Perennial Philosophy.* New York and London: Harper and Brothers, 1945.

———. *Ape and Essence.* London: Chatto and Windus, 1949.

———. *The Doors of Perception.* 1954. With a foreword by J. G. Ballard. London: Flamingo, 1994.

———. *Moksha: expériences visionnaires et psychédéliques, 1931–1963.* Edited by Michael Horowitz and Cynthia Palmer. Monaco: Éditions du Rocher, 1982.

Lodge, David, *The Art of Fiction.* London: Penguin Books, 1992.

Rezvani, Serge. *Isola Piccola.* Arles: Actes Sud, 1994.

Simenon, Georges. *La Mauvaise étoile.* 1938. Paris: Gallimard, 2003.

This essay is closely related to the novel *Touriste de bananes* (1938).

Simenon, Georges. *Le Passager du Polarlys.* 1932. Paris: Librairie Générale Française, 2004.

———. *Ceux de la soif.* 1938. Paris: Gallimard, 2001.

———. *Le Passager clandestin.* 1947. Paris: Librairie Générale Française, 2001.

Vázquez Montalbán, Manuel. *Memoria y deseo.* Barcelona: Seix Barral, 1986.

———. *Gauguin.* Paris: Flohic, « Museos secretos », 1991.

———. “Gauguin”. In *Liquidación de restos de serie. Una educación sentimental.* Madrid: Cátedra, Letras Hispánicas, 2001.

3.2. Related Works

Works directly related to the canonical Robinsonades of the primary corpus.

Bontempelli, Bruno. *L'Arbre du voyageur*. Paris: Grasset, 1992.

Related to: [Eco \(1994\)](#).

Bougainville (de), Louis-Antoine. *Voyage autour du monde par la frégate du Roi 'La Boudeuse' et la flûte 'L'Étoile'*. 1771. Jacques Proust (ed.). Paris: Gallimard, 1982.

Focus: primitivism.

Buttler, Samuel. *Erewhon*. 1872. London: J.M. Dent, 1965.

Cited in: [Huxley \(1962\)](#).

The first chapter is titled “Waste Lands”.

Bruckner, Pascal et Alain Finkielkraut. *Au coin de la rue l'aventure*. 1979. Paris: Seuil, 1982.

Related to: [Vázquez Montalbán \(1979\)](#).

Cernuda, Luis. *La realidad y el deseo, 1924–1962*. Mexico: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1975.

Cited in: [Vázquez Montalbán \(1979\)](#).

The poem cited is “**Las Islas**”. It appears in the collection *Vivir sin estar viviendo*, which gathers poems written between 1944 and 1949. It is worth noting that another poem by Cernuda, “**Quisiera estar solo en el Sur**,” written in 1929 and published in the collection *Un río, un amor* (1936), already evokes through its title the theme of the old American South—an imagined South where everything still appears possible.

Chadourne, Louis. *Le Maître du navire*. 1919. Préface de Thierry Fourneau. Tours: Farrago, 2002.

Compagnon, Antoine. *La seconde main ou le travail de la citation*. Paris: Seuil, 1979.

Related to: [Gary \(1968\)](#), [Vázquez Montalbán \(1979\)](#) and [Eco \(1994\)](#).

<https://archive.org/details/lasecondemainoul0000comp/page/n5/mode/2up>

Diderot, Denis. *Voyage en Hollande, 1773-1774*. Paris: François Maspéro, 1982.

Related to: [Cortázar \(1966\)](#).

Focus: primitivism.

Donne, John. “Hymn to God, my God, in my Sickness”. 1627. *Poems of John Donne*, vol. 1, Chambers E. K. (ed.). London: Routledge and Sons, New York: E.P. Dutton, 1915, 211–212.

Cited in: [Eco \(1994\)](#).

<https://ia801508.us.archive.org/2/items/in.ernet.dli.2015.94476/2015.94476.Poems-Of-John-Donne--Vol-1.pdf>

Eliade, Mircea. *Aspects du mythe*. Paris: Gallimard, 1963.

Related to: the concept of “**Great Time**,” a fundamental notion in the ontological **Robinsonade**.

<https://archive.org/details/aspectsdumythe0000elia>

Eliot, Thomas Stearn. *The Waste Land and Other Poems*. 1922. London, Faber and Faber, 1990, 23–41.

Cited in: [Vázquez Montalbán \(1979\)](#).

Flaubert, Gustave. *Correspondance. Deuxième série (1850-1854)*. Paris: Eugène Fasquelle, 1919, 49

Cited in: Riera (2003).

<https://dn721801.ca.archive.org/0/items/dli.ernet.358295/358295-Correspondance%20Deuxieme%20Serie%201850-1854.pdf>

Gauguin, Paul. *Oviri: Écrits d'un sauvage*. Daniel Guérin (ed.). Paris: Gallimard, 1974.

Related to: Gary (1968) and Vázquez Montalbán (1979).

English edition of *Oviri: Écrits d'un sauvage (The writings of a savage)*

<https://archive.org/details/writingsofsavage0000gaug/mode/2up>

Girard, René. *Mensonge romantique et vérité romanesque*. 1961. Paris: Grasset, 1985.

Related to: the concept of “mimetic desire,” a fundamental notion in the ontological Robinsonade.

https://ia802902.us.archive.org/25/items/GirardRenEssaisFranaisMensongeRomantiqueEtVritRomanesque/Girard_-Ren%C3%A9-_Essais-Fran%C3%A7ais_-Mensonge-romantique-et-v%C3%A9rit%C3%A9-romanesque.pdf

Heyerdahl, Thor. *Fatu Hiva. Le retour à la nature*. Translated by Alette Henri Martin. Les éditions du Pacifique, 1976. Originally published as *Fatu Hiva. Back to Nature*, 1974.

English edition:

<https://archive.org/details/backtonature0000thor/mode/2up>

Related to Simenon's *Banana Tourist* (1938).

Focus: primitivism.

Levi, Carlo. *Cristo si è fermato a Eboli*. 1945. Torino: Einaudi, 1970.

English edition of *Cristo si è fermato a Eboli (Christ stopped at Eboli)*

<https://archive.org/details/storyofyearchris0000carl>

Cited in: Vázquez Montalbán (1979).

Lojacono, Florence. “Rien de nouveau sous le soleil”. *Francofonía*, no. 16 (2007): 51–65.

<https://www.redalyc.org/articulo.oa?id=29511602003>

Related to: Simenon's *Touriste de bananes* (1938) and *Ceux de la soif* (1938).

For the “real” story behind *Ceux de la soif*, see Wittmer, Margret. *Les Robinsons des Galapagos*. 1960. Translated by Henry Daussy. Paris: Albin Michel, 1960. Originally published as *Postlagernd Floreana. Ein außergewöhnliches Frauenleben am Ende der Welt*.

Lojacono, Florence. “Le double mimétique dans la robinsonnade ontologique: 'L'Île d'un autre' et 'L'Isola del giorno prima’”. *Cuadernos de Investigación Filológica*, vol. 35/36 (2010): 185–196.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18172/cif.1514>

Related to: Perry (1982) and Eco (1994).

Focus: the role of the double in mimetic desire (Girard 1961).

Lojacono, Florence. “La recherche du Grand Temps dans la robinsonnade ontologique.” In *Tiempo: Texto e Imagen*, José Manuel Losada (ed.). Madrid: Universidad Complutense de Madrid, 2011, 481–493.

<file:///C:/Users/flore/Downloads/Dialnet-TiempoTextoEImagenTempsTexteEtImage-502646.pdf>

Related to: Cortázar (1966), Ballard (1974) and Eco (1994).

Focus: the importance of stepping outside ordinary time in order to return to what Eliade (1963) calls the “Great Time.”

Lojacono, Florence. “Un invariant de la robinsonnade ontologique: la figure du prédécesseur.” *Thélème. Revista Complutense de Estudios Franceses*, vol. 26 (2011): 203–215.

DOI: https://doi.org/10.5209/rev_THEL.2011.v26.12

Related to: Simenon (1938), Cortázar (1966) and Mendoza (1989).

Focus: the Predecessor as a structural invariant of the ontological Robinsonade (Girard 1961).

Lojacono, Florence. “Perspectives comparées de quatre robinsonnades ontologiques”. In *Les possibilités d'une île*, Maria de Jésus Cabral, Ana Clara Santos (eds.). Paris: Petra, 2014, 227–243.

Related to: Simenon (1938), Ballard (1974), Vázquez Montalbán (1979) and Eco (1994).

Lojacono, Florence. “Zarathoustra aux îles: 'Vasco' (Chadourne, 1927) et 'Touriste de bananes' (Simenon, 1938)”. *Thélème. Revista Complutense de Estudios Franceses*, 31/2 (2016): 283–296.

DOI: https://doi.org/10.5209/rev_THEL.2016.v31.n2.52786

Related to: Chadourne (1927) and Simenon (1938).

Focus: A Nietzschean perspective on the ontological Robinsonade.

Lojacono, Florence. “Le rêve de hutte dans 'L'Île d'un autre' de Jacques Perry et 'L'Île à Midi' de Julio Cortázar”. *Studii si Cercetari Filologice Seria Limbi Romanice*, vol. 25 (2019): 69–83.

https://www.philologie-romane.eu/files/6515/5971/8828/Forma_finala_25.2019.pdf

Related to: Perry (1982) and Cortázar (1966).

Focus on: primitivism as a key component of the ontological Robinsonade (1)

Lojacono, Florence. “Un roman postmoderne des années 1920: 'Vasco' de Marc Chadourne”. *Thélème. Revista Complutense de Estudios Franceses*, 35/2 (2020): 229–237. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5209/thel.70083>

Related to: Chadourne (1927)

Lojacono, Florence. “Les demeures de la solitude de tête: la hutte et le H.L.M.” *Cahiers Erta*, vol. 43 (2025): 31–47. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26881/erta.2025.43.02>

Related to: Simenon (1938) and Vázquez Montalbán (1979).

Focus on: primitivism as a key component of the ontological Robinsonade (2)

Marino, Giovambattista, *La Lira, Marino e i marinisti*, Milano, Napoli, Ricciardi, 1954, p. 329–418.

Cited in: Eco (1994).

Pavese, Cesare. *Lavorare stanca*. Firenze 1936. Torino: Einaudi, 1980.

Cited in: Vázquez Montalbán (1979).

The poem cited is “I mari del Sud”.

Perruchot, Henri. *La Vie de Gauguin*. Paris: Hachette, 1961.

Cited in: Gary (1968).

Quasimodo, Salvatore. *La Vita non é un sogno*. 1949. Milano: Mondadori, 1969.

Cited in: Vázquez Montalbán (1979).

The poem cited is “Lamento per il Sud”.

Riba, Carles. *Corazón salvaje / Salvatge cor*. 1952. Bilingual edition. Translated by Rafael Santos Torroella. Madrid: Ministerio de Cultura, 1988.

Cited in: Riera (1990).

Thoreau, Henry David. “Walden”. 1854. *Walden and civil disobedience*, New York, Penguin Books USA, 1986, 43-382.

———. *Cape Cod*. 1865. Introduction by Paul Thérroux. New York: Penguin Books, 1987.

Related to: Thérroux (1981).

Wallraff, Günter. *Lowest of the Low*. Translated by Martin Chalmers. London: Methuen, 1988. Originally published in Germany as *Ganz Unten*, 1985.

Related to: Vázquez Montalbán (1979).

https://dn721901.ca.archive.org/0/items/lowest-of-the-low_202311/lowest_of_the_low.pdf

Yeats, W. B. “Before the World Was Made.” 1929. In *The Poems*, Daniel Albright (ed.). London: David Campbell Publishers, 1991, 321.

Cited in: Gary (1968) and Lodge (1991).