

# Honour, Love and Loyalty in The Select Novels of Alexander Dumas

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## **Abstract:**

**Alexander Dumas was a French playwright and novelist. His works have been translated into many languages. Several of his works are associated with historical fiction. The author was born in Picardy in France. In historical fiction, the plot is set amidst real historical events. The details of the social conditions of that time period are described in detail in historical fiction literary works. Fictional elements are added to historical events in the novel. This paper studies the author's critically acclaimed works.**

**Key Words: Alexander Dumas, The Three Musketeers, The Count of Monte Cristo.**

## **I. Introduction**

Alexander Dumas was a French playwright and novelist. His works have been translated into many languages. Several of his works are associated with historical fiction. The author was born in Picardy in France. In historical fiction, the plot is set amidst real historical events. The details of the social conditions of that time period are described in detail in historical fiction literary works. Fictional elements are added to historical events in the novel. Sir Walter Scott was one of the first authors to write literary works of historical fiction. Dumas rose to critical recognition for his works, *The three musketeers* and *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

## **II. The Three Musketeers**

*The Three Musketeers* is a historical adventure novel. It belongs to the swashbuckler genre. In the swashbuckler genre, the protagonist is chivalrous and has talent for sportsmanship and acrobatics. Such a protagonist rescues woman, protects of poor and fights in duels. The original title of the novel is *Les Trois Mosquetaires*. The novel is set between 1625 and 1628 and the protagonist is named d'Artagnan, a young man. He leaves his home and journeys to Paris, desiring to join the Musketeers of the Guard. The musketeers of the Guard were a fighting company of the Maison du Roi, which was the royal household of the French monarchy. However, he is unable to join the elite company and he befriends three musketeers named Athos, Porthos and Aramis. A musketeer was a soldier whose choice of weapon was the musket. They were spread mostly across Europe. A lot of abuses and injustices are portrayed in the novel. The setting of the novel is seventeen century Paris, and the main characters face off against multiple forces that are trying to destabilize the ruling monarchy. Honor, love and loyalty are the core themes.

## **III. The Count of Monte Cristo**

*The Count of Monte Cristo* is an adventure novel by Alexander Dumas. The original title of the novel was *Le Comte de Monte-Cristo*. The setting of the story is Italy, France and the Mediterranean Islands. The novel is set between the years 1815 to 1839. The Bourbon Restoration, when the house of Bourbon came back to power during the reign of Louis Philippe of France, is spoken about in the novel. At the beginning of the novel, the Hundred Days period between Napoleon's return from exile on Elba to Paris, is also described.

The protagonist is Edmond Dantes, a nineteen year old frenchman. He is falsely accused of treason and arrested. Another prisoner, Abbé Faria, along with Edmond, are imprisoned at Château d'If, an island located near Marseille. He is named after the real life Abbé Faria, who was known for his study on hypnotism Paris. Abbé Faria educates Edmond on various subjects as well and reveals the location of his treasure. After Abbé Faria's death, Edmond finds the treasure and give himself the title of the Count of Mont Cristo. He is named after the real life Abbé Faria, who was known for his study on hypnotism Paris. In the 1830s, Edmond decides to re-enter Paris. Edmond's desire is to acquire redemption. His fiancée, Mercedes is now married to his former friend, Fernand. Honor, love and loyalty are the core themes of the works.

**REFERENCES:**

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