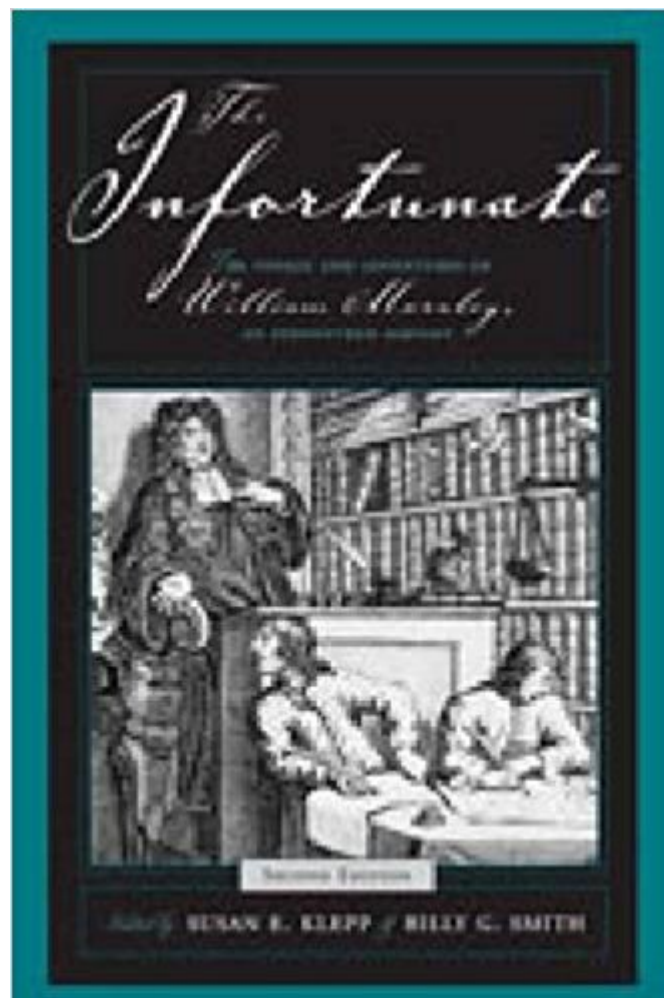




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The Infortunate: The Voyage And Adventures Of William Moraley, An Indentured Servant



Synopsis

First published by Penn State Press in 1992, *The Infortunate* has become a staple for teachers and students of American history. William Moraley's firsthand account of bound servitude provides a rare glimpse of life among the lower classes in England and the American colonies during the eighteenth century. In the decade since its original publication, Susan Klepp and Billy Smith have unearthed new information on Moraley's life, both before his ill-fated venture as an indentured servant from England to the "American Plantations" and after his return to England. This revised edition features this additional information while presenting the autobiography in a new way, offering more explicit emphasis for students and teachers in college, university, and high school about how to read and interpret Moraley's autobiography.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This memoir, the editors argue in their insightful introductory essay, offers a contrast to the colonial-era writings of wealthy European visitors and rising successes like Benjamin Franklin. Moraley who indentured himself for money and came to the U.S. from England in 1729, spent nearly five years on the lower rungs in the American colonies. His brief, readable account, designed both to inform and entertain, is both an adventure and an ambiguous morality tale: his preface suggests a Calvinist call for individual responsibility, while elsewhere in the narrative he proclaims himself the "Tennis-ball of Fortune." He is something of a scamp: while Franklin, upon arriving in Philadelphia, discovered the locals loved reading, Moraley praised the city's "many Houses of Entertainment." He also describes here his childhood, his failed attempt to clerk for an attorney, his study of the

watchmaking trade and his trip to the New World, where he was indentured to a clockmaker and performed diverse tasks. In America, he offers brief descriptions of geography, flora and fauna, and religious practices. As the editors note, Moraley's memoir helps fill some historical gaps; unlike him, most early travelers ignored the role of servants, slaves and Native Americans. Klepp wrote *Philadelphia in Transition*; Smith edited *Blacks Who Stole Themselves*. Illustrated. Copyright 1992 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

“Those of us who have too long savored the autobiography of Benjamin Franklin as being an account of a typical poor man who rises to wealth and power in the new United States will welcome this account of the more usual fate of a common ordinary person in Colonial and Federal America. . . . Filled with half-truths and whole lies, it nevertheless is a valuable almost priceless document about life in the early U.S.” Ray B. Browne, *Journal of American Culture* “The adventures of William Moraley depict not the rags-to-riches tale, the model so often used to describe mobility in colonial America, but rather the saga of one who never earned a decent competency. . . . Klepp and Smith have provided readers with a valuable glimpse of how those on the margins struggled, however in vain, in the best poor man's country.” Sharon V. Salinger, *Journal of American History*

I loved reading this book. The intro was a little long but it did give a nice preface to the reading. The actual book produced by Moraley is around 107 pages long or so. Everything else in the book is appendixes and editors notes, but all in all I read it in a few hours and enjoyed it thoroughly.

I purchased this book as result of reading its description of travels of a William Moraley... and particularly as I am interested in tales/stories re those who ventured forth from their homes to the 'new land' that became the USA. Interesting /enjoyable story(stories)

This book is a great way to learn about early American life in the cities. It is well written in a very unique first person, and true. I read it in college and loved it, and i think that it would still be a good read for anyone highschool to adult. It's a quick read.

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