



# No Ordinary Man

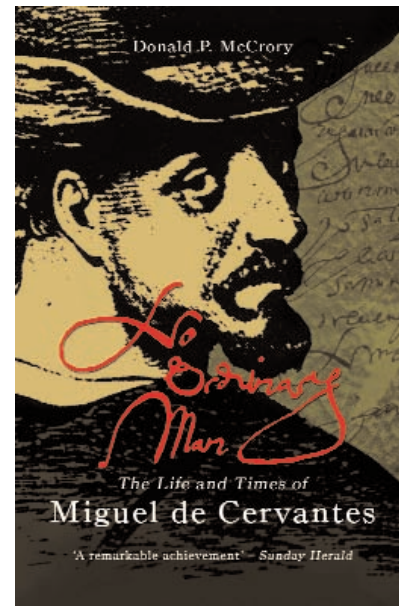
## The Life and Times of Miguel de Cervantes

DONALD P. McCRORY

NON-FICTION/BIOGRAPHY

105,000 WORDS

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**The first biography to be aimed at the general reader as much as at students and historians, *No Ordinary Man* is a fascinating study of the life and work of Miguel de Cervantes (1547–1616), the writer known as the ‘Spanish Shakespeare’ and author of the timeless classic *Don Quixote*.**

A Renaissance man in every sense, Cervantes was in his time an adventurer, spy, soldier, hostage and creator of the first European novel. This new study is based on the latest original research and incorporates previously unpublished material on Cervantes’ long period of captivity in Algiers, his involvement in piracy in the Mediterranean, espionage and the Spanish Armada and his work for the Spanish government. Containing much information only previously available in Spanish, *No Ordinary Man* makes an important contribution to the understanding of this unique literary and historical figure.

**‘Cervantes created a character who in being entirely of a time and a culture transcends both. It was and remains a remarkable achievement. So is McCrory’s.’ – *Sunday Herald***

**‘McCrory has painstakingly assembled unadorned facts and sifted the scholarship on the context of his subject’s life . . . efficiently, painlessly and usefully . . . he is mercifully free of literary theory and is more interested in constructing an honest “life and times” rather than making inferences about the man from his work.’**

**– Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, *Literary Review***

**‘McCrory wisely stays aloof from wild speculations and sticks faithfully to the facts, but the results are no less fascinating . . . the book sheds plenty of new light on one of the most fertile and prodigious minds of the Renaissance.’ – Fernando Cervantes, *Tablet***

**DONALD McCRORY** is former Principal Lecturer and Head of Hispanic Studies at the American International University in London. He has contributed to many academic journals and published six volumes of poetry. His translation and in-depth study of Cervantes’ ‘The Captive’s Tale’, one of the stories in *Don Quixote, Part One*, was published in 1994.

*For further information please contact Simon Smith at Peter Owen*